· AUSTRALIA $3.00 · BELGIUM BF60 · CANADA $2.50 · FRANCE FF10 · ICELAND KR200 · NEW ZEALAND $3.00 · SWEDEN KR15 · UK £1.00 · U.S. $1.50

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 65/NO. 24 JUNE 18, 2001

INSIDE
Youth build anti-imperialist festival in Algiers — PAGE 4

March in Miami protests cop killing of Haitian man

Death of worker hog-tied, 'subdued' by police sparks outrage

BY MARY ANN SCHMIDT

MIAMI—More than 1,000 people marched here June 2 to protest the killing of Marc Dorvil, a Haitian-American carpenter, who died in the custody of the North Bay Village police. The marchers' high-spirited chants included "Justice, Justice, Justice, Justice," as they crossed the causeway from Pelican Bay Park to the North Bay Village police station.

Protest signs filled the air demanding: "Justice for Marc Dorvil!" "Stop the Cover-up," "Justice for Blacks," "Stop Police Brutality/Stop Racial Profiling," "Jail Killer Cops," "We Demand a Federal Investigation," and "Remember Rodney King, Abner Louima, Amadou Diallo."

"People think the police killed Marc Dorvil. That's why I'm here today. I believe the police of this city are hiding the truth," said Yvon Jacques.

Dorvil was involved in a minor car accident on the causeway May 14. The police claim when they approached him, he acted "strange" and it took up to eight cops to "subdue" him. Dorvil was hog-tied and placed face down in the back of the patrol car. According to the *Miami Herald*, "He kicked the door" of the patrol car and "banged his head against the window." An ambulance was called to treat the police, but Dorvil was left untreated in the back of the police car. The cops took him to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Initial press accounts of Dorvil acting like a person in a "cocaine fit" were amended when the medical examiners ruled out any presence of drugs in his system. The examiners also rejected any blame of the police. The allegation of drug use outraged working people in the community.

A flyer passed out by the Coalition Against Police Brutality and Brothers of the Same Mind reported that the State Attorney's "summary of events" claims Dorvil broke out of flex cuffs three times. A force of 400 pounds is needed to do this,

Continued on Page 7

Cincinnati protesters: we won't stop demanding justice for Timothy Thomas

Militant/Liz Wayman

June 2 march of 2,000 in Cincinnati against cop violence. See article on page 11.

300,000 in Algeria protest government repression

BY MAGGIE TROWE

"The gendarmes are the real terrorists!" and "Government assassins!" chanted several hundred thousand people at a May 31 march in Algiers, the capital of Algeria, called to oppose violent attacks and repression carried out by the regime of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The size and militancy of the march showed the depth of the sentiment against repression of the Berber people in the Kabylia region of eastern Algeria.

The actions have condemned the killing by government paramilitary forces of some 80 people involved in the mobilizations and called for the removal of police from the Berber region. Berbers, an oppressed nationality, make up about 30 percent of the population of the country and have been fighting against national oppression and for language rights for decades. After six weeks of protests the movement has gained support throughout the population and forced the government to offer some modest concessions.

The protests exploded after the April 18 death in police custody of high school student Guermah Massinissa. A feature of the actions has also been demands on the government to address deteriorating economic conditions in a country where unemployment is 30 percent and working people are bearing the burden of Algeria's $30 billion

Continued on Page 12

Active Workers Conference

Following the Lines of Working-Class Resistance: Expanding Opportunities for Communists Today
June 14–17 ❖ Oberlin, Ohio

Celebrate the publication of Pathfinder's new titles

Talks

In Defense of Bolshevism
Jack Barnes
National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

The Cuban Revolution and Building the Revolutionary Communist Movement in the United States
Mary-Alice Waters
Socialist Workers Party National Committee

Panels of workers, farmers, and youth who are part of labor struggles and fights against police brutality and racism, for immigrants' rights, women's rights, in defense of democratic rights; producing and selling Pathfinder books; building communist branches in workers districts.

Films

- ***The Battle of Algiers:*** Film about the Algerian Revolution
- ***Terrorists in Retirement:*** The story of Eastern European garment workers in exile in Paris who joined the French resistance to Nazi occupation and fought persecution by the Stalinist Communist Party.
- ***Salt of the Earth:*** New Mexico miners organize union battles, social movement.

Meeting of Young Socialists
Pathfinder reprint volunteers workshops

Classes

- Communists and the transformation of nature—Steve Clark
- The hidden history of the workers and farmers government in Algeria, 1963–65—Greg McCartan
- Organizational principles of the Socialist Workers Party (English and Spanish)—Martín Koppel and Lisa Potash
- The birth of Bolshevism: Components of the political program that led to building a centralized party of professional revolutionaries—Argiris Malapanis and Maggie Trowe
- *The First Ten Years of American Communism* and *The History of American Trotskyism*—Paul Mailhot
- The Jewish question: The working class and the fight against anti-Semitism—Dave Prince
- Twenty-two years of the Iranian revolution: The place of Pathfinder books in the world today—Cindy Jaquith

Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists

Special sale of Pathfinder titles
Recreation, nightly dances, sports

Attend the Active Workers Conference

BY RÓGER CALERO

"In defense of Bolshevism" and "Following the lines of working-class resistance: expanding opportunities for communists today" are the themes of the Active Workers Conference, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, that will take place in Ohio June 14-17.

The conference will feature presentations by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes, author of the new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters, as well as classes, panels, and films.

The political focus of the four-day event will be the opportunities to build the communist movement through deepening participation in the resistance of workers and farmers to the offensive by bosses and their government; the possibilities and necessity of building a disciplined, centralized proletarian party of professional revolutionaries, based in workers districts, as the Bolsheviks did in Russia to lead workers and farmers in a revolutionary struggle for power in 1917; and the centrality of the example of

Continued on Page 14

Justice for framed-up dock workers! — pages 4, 14

Rail bosses' cutbacks cause of 'runaway' freight train in Ohio

BY KAY SEDAM

MIAMI—With no crew aboard, a CSX train in Ohio carrying hazardous materials traveled almost 70 miles May 15 through farm fields and several villages and cities. The "runaway" train, which came out of a rail yard near Toledo, was traveling at speeds of up to 45 miles per hour.

The 47-car train included two tank cars that contained thousands of gallons of molten phenol acid, a toxic ingredient of paints and dyes that is harmful when it is inhaled, ingested, or comes into contact with the skin. Twenty-two cars were loaded with freight, mainly paper and lumber, and the 25 other cars were empty. The locomotive was at full throttle when the train was finally stopped after traveling for two hours through three counties in northern Ohio.

The train was scheduled to travel just one mile, but instead went 66 miles, at times within 50 feet of homes and businesses. CSX workers tried to veer it off the tracks at two spots. Rescue workers feared that the train would derail into houses as it headed through Finlay and Bowling Green, a city of nearly 30,000 people. At one point police evacuated about 100 workers from a meat processing plant near the village of North Baltimore.

With no one at the controls, there were no whistles to alert oncoming cars at road crossings, and of course nobody to slow it down. An air ambulance flew above in case of a derailment or collision.

Finally, a CSX engineer succeeded in coupling a "catch engine" to the rear of the train and applying the brakes. This maneuver slowed the train to about 10 miles per hour as other workers ran alongside. United Transportation Union member Jon Hosfeld was then able to jump onto the moving train and pulled its emergency brake. The train's final resting place was just north of Kenton, Ohio. Fortunately, nobody got hurt.

At first authorities claimed there was an engineer on board who had suffered a heart attack. But rescue workers rapidly confirmed that was not true.

After a daylong investigation, Alan Crown, executive vice president for transportation at CSX Corp., issued a statement claiming the incident resulted from an engineer accidentally pulling a throttle instead of a brake. His statement said, "Prior to dismounting the locomotive to line a switch, [the engineer] intended to engage the three types of brakes on the locomotive. He applied two brakes, but then inadvertently grabbed the throttle lever instead of the third braking lever."

The train was equipped with a safety device called an alerter that, if working properly, should have stopped the train within minutes. "CSX, based in Jacksonville, [Florida] does not know why it did not do that," stated an article in the *Miami Herald*. There are other sensor safety devices available to railroad bosses that can be placed on the rails to stop trains if they get on the wrong track or if brakes fail going down mountain passes.

The explanation the company gave for the cause of this accident didn't sit well with many of my co-workers. Eugene Kinchen, an engineer, pointed out that the brakes and the throttle on this type of engine are a foot apart. And the throttle goes in the opposite direction of that of the brake, a fact that raises questions about the company's version of the events. Another worker said he could not imagine how a train could get out of the yard without someone in the train tower not noticing that it didn't have a crew on it.

A veteran rail worker pointed out that before the Crew Consist agreement, which reduced the size of crews working on each train from six or seven workers down to two or three, you would never hear of an engineer dismounting the engine to throw a switch and leaving the engine control unmanned and vulnerable to this type of situation.

Another worker jokingly said that maybe this was CSX's way of going one better in trying to reduce the crew size on trains by not having anyone operate them.

The merger of CSX and Conrail railroad in 1999 has led to further downsizing of crews, resulting in worsening safety conditions for the workforce and the surrounding communities. The Union Pacific Railroad had undergone a similar process the year before.

Rail companies cut corners on safety

A recent segment appearing on the CBS TV program *60 Minutes* offered a glimpse of this truth. It told of the billions of dollars in profits the railroads have made since the recent rail mergers. It also pointed out how little of those profits have been put back into the equipment and track of the newly merged, highly profitable railroads. While the railroad bosses self-servingly claim that "human error" is to blame for most "accidents," in many cases it is found to be faulty equipment or ill-repaired track conditions that are the root causes of these incidents.

One of the ways rail companies try to deflect blame from themselves for safety problems is by establishing an inordinate number of "rules" that workers are required to know and practice. The rail bosses contend that following these rules will prevent accidents. In reality, the bosses pressure workers to give more priority to delivering products quickly and to raising "productivity" than to carrying out the rules, which they use to profess concern about safety, while at the same time using them to threaten disciplinary action against workers.

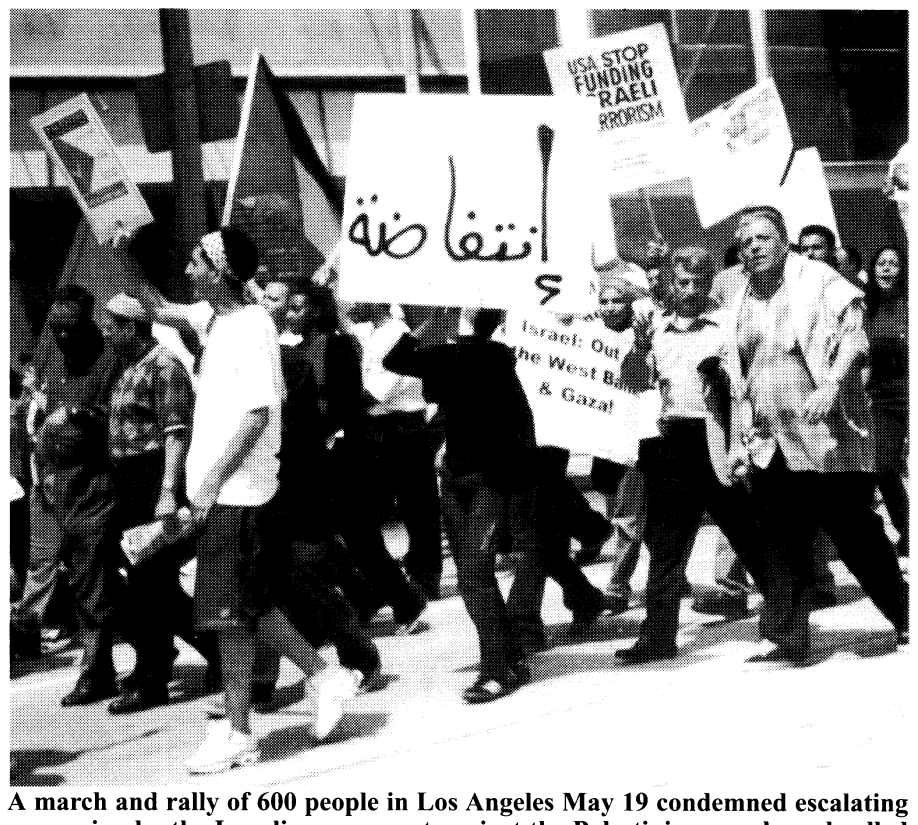
It is rail workers, not the companies, that are concerned about safety and health. The fight to demand safety on the job is a responsibility of the union movement. Today, workers in a range of industries are seeking to use the power of their unions to fight back. From meat packers in Long Prairie, Minnesota, opposing the brutal speedup of the production line, to coal miners combating the conditions that lead to repeated mine deaths, safety is a crucial union issue.

It will only be when workers themselves have control over setting job conditions that they and society as a whole can feel safe and free from the employers' drive to sacrifice safety for profits.

Kay Sedam is a member of the United Transportation Union and an engineer at CSX Railroad in Hialeah, Florida.

AS I SEE IT

600 march in Los Angeles in solidarity with Palestinian struggle



A march and rally of 600 people in Los Angeles May 19 condemned escalating aggression by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people and called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. Many young people joined the spirited demonstration. Another action was called for June 6 in the city.

Washington to increase its troops in Ecuador

Washington is increasing by 200 the number of air force and navy personnel stationed at its military base in Manta, Ecuador, in October after work is complete in expanding the runway to accommodate large jets.

Manta is one of four military bases established by Washington in Latin America and the Caribbean under the guise of drug interdiction. An article in the *Financial Times* of London noted the cost of the four bases is less than that of the U.S. government's earlier base in Panama, closed in 1999. A U.S. embassy official in Quito said U.S. forces based in Panama could "get down to Ecuador, but not much further south. Now [that] we're in the area the entire time we can venture into Peru, Colombia, and over the Pacific Ocean."

THE MILITANT

Cuba and Puerto Rico

For news, analysis, and historical background on the Cuban Revolution, such as the action of 100,000 in Havana (right) in solidarity with the struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Read the 'Militant' every week to help unravel Washington's lies and learn about the example of the Cuban Revolution.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $10 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $15 for 12 weeks

❑ $27 for 6 months

❑ $45 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, $A20 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can$15 • Caribbean and Latin America, $15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 500 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,700 New Zealand, NZ$20• Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 65/No. 24
Closing news date: June 6, 2001

Editor: MARTÍN KOPPEL
Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS
Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Hilda Cuzco, Greg McCartan, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.
Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN
Published weekly except for two weeks in August and one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.
E-mail: TheMilitant@compuserve.com
The Militant website is: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: **United States**: for one-year subscription send $45 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send $80.

Asia: send $80 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4613 St. Laurent, Montreal, Quebec H2T 1R2.

Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. **Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East:** £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address.

France: Send FF420 for one-year subscription to Militant, Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris; chèque postale: 40 134 34 U. **Belgium:** BF 2,400 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/ Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp.

Iceland: Send 5,800 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. **Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark:** 550 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9.

New Zealand: Send New Zealand $90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. **Australia:** Send Australian $90 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240, Australia. **Pacific Islands:** Send New Zealand $90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Powell tours Africa to bolster U.S. influence

BY RÓGER CALERO

U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell carried out a visit to four African nations in late May. During his tour he reaffirmed Washington's efforts to strengthen its dominance of the region, help establish stable pro-U.S. regimes, and promote investment and greater market openings for U.S.-made goods. Powell visited Mali, South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda.

"Trade and private investment have to go hand in hand with openness within a country," Powell said May 25 to an audience of 1,500 students at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Clarifying what he meant by "openness," he added, "Money loves security and stability."

Big-business media commentators noted that the administration sought to play on the fact that General Powell is the first U.S. secretary of state who is Black to gain credibility for the U.S. government's policies in Africa. Washington is seeking to consolidate its dominance in Africa and edge out its imperialist rivals, primarily London and Paris, which have long dominated the continent.

During his visit Powell praised several pro-U.S. regimes, while attacking other governments whose policies do not meet with Washington's approval. At the University of Witwatersrand, Powell condemned President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, accusing him of using "totalitarian" methods to remain in power. He demanded that Mugabe "submit to the law and the will of the people" in a "fair and free" presidential election next year.

Powell charged that the Mugabe government was promoting a "campaign of terror" by supporters of his ruling African National Union-Patriotic Front against opposition politicians, wealthy white farmers, and businesses. He was referring to the occupation of hundreds of farms owned by capitalist farmers, and to threats to businesses and organizations accused of supporting the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Ownership of the land remains a central question in Zimbabwe, a country with more than 6 million peasants and a tiny white minority controlling 80 percent of the arable land. Although the campaign of "land seizures" organized by the Mugabe regime, benefiting government officials and supporters of the ruling party, is not a radical land reform advancing the interests of working people, it has brought the displeasure of Washington and other imperialist powers, which are concerned about social instability that might jeopardize their profit drive.

In mid-May the Canadian government suspended aid and cut off export financing to Zimbabwe. The governments of Britain and Germany have also threatened sanctions against the Mugabe regime.

"The Americans must not try to impose leaders on us," replied Didymus Mutasa, foreign affairs secretary of the ruling party in Zimbabwe. "The issue of who leads Zimbabwe is for Zimbabweans alone."

The U.S. government has sought to enlist South Africa in its campaign against the Mugabe regime, but during Powell's visit South African leaders remained muted in their remarks about Zimbabwe.

While in Kenya meeting with President Daniel arap Moi, the U.S. secretary of state also called on Moi to step aside and let a new president be elected next year. He demanded that the Kenyan government pass a U.S.-backed "anticorruption" law as a condition for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to restore financial ties with Kenya, which they cut off four years ago.

Washington eyes Sudan's oil

One of Washington's targets in its foreign policy has been the government of Sudan, which U.S. officials have labeled a "rogue state," meaning the government there is not sufficiently submissive to the U.S. rulers. The Clinton administration maintained an aggressive policy toward the Sudanese government, calling it a "sponsor of terrorism," and bombing the capital, Khartoum, with cruise missiles in 1998. Washington has sought to undercut the regime by providing military aid to opposition forces in southern Sudan that are engaged in an 18-year-long war that has already claimed 2 million lives.

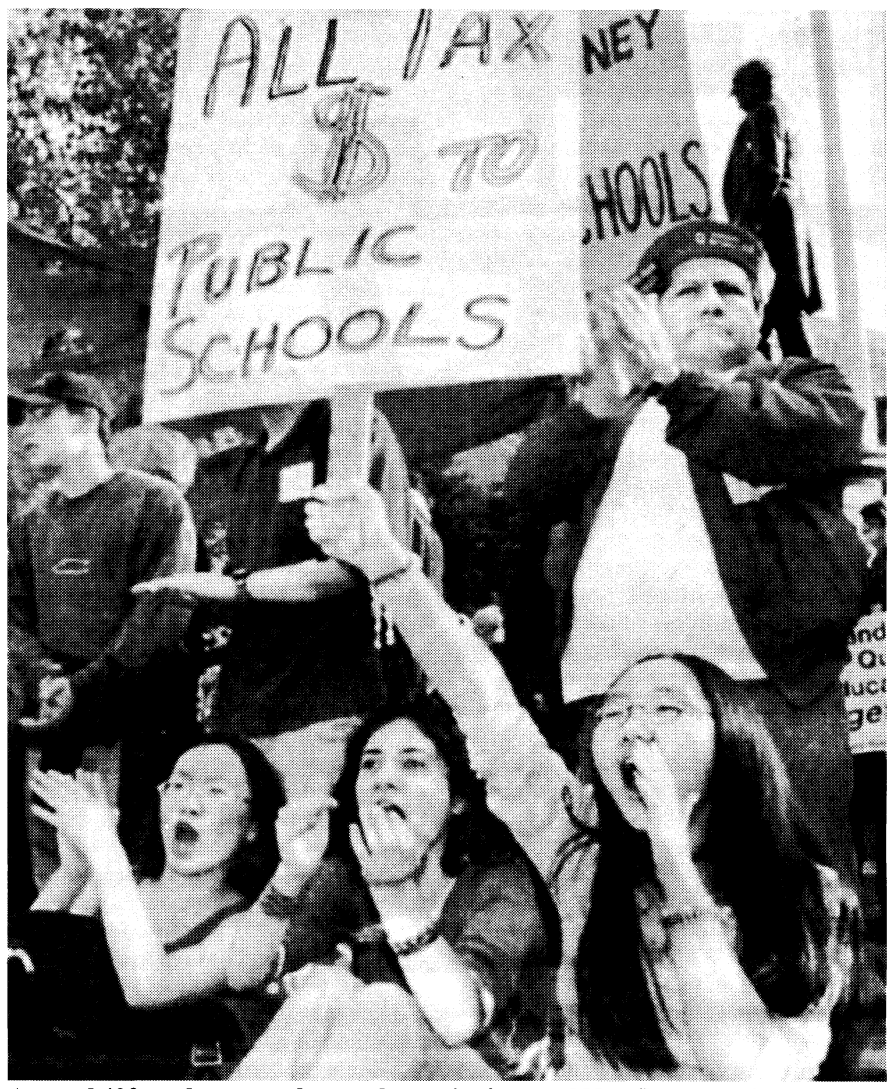
While pressing the Sudanese regime to end the conflict with the rebel forces in the south, Powell posed as an evenhanded peacemaker. He announced a shipment of 40,000 tons of food to both warring sides as a "gesture" and said he would choose a special envoy to help in ending the conflict. At the same time he justified $3 million in equipment and training to rebel groups and opposition parties in southern Sudan, arguing this would improve their ability to participate in the "peace process."

Washington's newly found concern about the conflict in Sudan, and its latest moves toward the regime were explained in a March 16 editorial in the *Washington Post*.

"The reason for urgency is oil," the *Post* editors candidly stated. The editorial warns the U.S. government of the need to halt or slow the agreements made by the Sudanese government with European and Asian companies to exploit the recently discovered oil deposits in southern Sudan. Canada, Malaysia, China, Sweden, and Austria are among the countries investing in the Sudanese oil industry.

At various points during his visit Powell faced sharp questioning about Washington's commitment to the fight against the AIDS epidemic in Africa. At the meeting with students at the University of Witwatersrand Powell was also condemned for the U.S. assault on Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf War—during which he was chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff—and for its military support to the Israeli regime. A demonstration of several dozen students shouting "Powell, go home!" and "Free Palestine!" blocked his motorcade for half an hour at the university.

Students in Toronto defend public education



Around 400 students, teachers, other unionists, and New Democratic Party supporters rallied at the steps of the Ontario Legislature May 31 to defend secular, state-funded public education. They opposed a bill that proposes to use government funds to support private religious and academic schools.

Bipartisan bill would fund anti-Cuba groups

BY RÓGER CALERO

A bipartisan bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate to provide up to $100 million over four years to groupings and individuals inside Cuba who oppose the revolution.

The so-called Cuban Solidarity Act was introduced May 16 by senators Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, and Joseph Lieberman, Democrat from Connecticut and former running mate of Democratic presidential candidate Albert Gore. It was cosponsored by an additional four Democrats and five Republicans in the Senate.

Parallel legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida, with the backing of 95 other Congressmen.

In the name of promoting "democracy and human rights," the Senate bill would authorize the U.S. president to send cash, telephones, fax machines, and other material to "nongovernmental organizations" and individuals selected by Washington in order to funnel these resources to individuals who oppose the Cuban Revolution.

U.S. president George Bush endorsed the measure. "The policy of our government is not merely to isolate Castro," said Bush May 18, referring to Washington's four-decade-long economic war against Cuba, "but to actively support those working to bring about democratic change in Cuba." Bush was accompanied by Secretary of State Colin Powell, national security adviser Condoleeza Rice, and leaders of right-wing Cuban-American groups at a White House ceremony.

The $100 million legislation is the biggest effort so far to provide open U.S. government financing to the collection of tiny groupings on the island that oppose the Cuban Revolution. Washington already openly offers such funding through various means. For example, "the U.S. Agency for International Development has been providing support to U.S. groups promoting democracy and human rights," noted Helms in announcing the bill. From the beginning, of course, the U.S. government has funded counterrevolutionary activities inside and outside Cuba.

The measure is intended to complement U.S. measures to tighten the economic squeeze on Cuba, including the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, also known as the Helms-Burton and Torricelli acts, respectively.

So-called independent librarians

The new legislation lists a series of "independent" entities that would be eligible for U.S. government funding—"independent libraries, independent workers' rights activists, independent agricultural cooperatives," self-employed individuals, journalists, environmentalists, and others.

The U.S. big-business media has recently highlighted the self-proclaimed "independent libraries" in Cuba as a supposed alternative for Cubans seeking cultural freedom. The literature and websites promoting these entities, however, describe virtually all the so-called librarians as leaders of the "Democratic Solidarity Party," the "Cuban Party of Orthodox Renewal," and other tiny political groups opposed to the revolutionary government, most of whom owe their existence to the U.S. government. The "libraries" are the homes of these pro-U.S. political activists.

Some opponents of the Cuban government, noted Wayne Smith, a former U.S. diplomat who today favors easing Washington's embargo on Cuba, are nervous that the measure would only discredit further the opposition groups in Cuba as paid agents of the U.S. government.

In a press conference after the new U.S. bill was announced, Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque condemned Washington's four-decade-long effort to weaken and overturn the sovereign government of Cuba. He called the Congressional measure "an effort to turn into law and recognize publicly what has been done until now as interference in the internal affairs of our country."

Native American activist sentenced to life in prison

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Eddie Hatcher, a longtime Native American activist, was convicted of first degree murder May 17 and subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. He was convicted of the May 1999 drive-by shooting of 19-year-old Brian McMillan in the Robeson County town of Maxton. County District Attorney Johnson Britt had been seeking the death penalty.

Leading up to the trial date Hatcher's supporters built a defense campaign that sponsored several events. They pointed to the lack of physical evidence linking Hatcher to the murder.

During the trial Thelma Clark, who has been active in Hatcher's defense and is his mother, explained to this reporter that several prosecution witnesses admitted in court that they were testifying as part of plea bargain agreements they had reached with the authorities.

In 1988 Hatcher and another Tuscarora Indian activist took over the offices of the local newspaper, *The Robesonian*, to support demands that the state governor investigate a number of unsolved murders and the death of a young Black man in Robeson County jail who had died after being denied medical attention. Acquitted on federal charges, Hatcher was later tried and convicted by the state of North Carolina. He served five years in prison and one year on parole on a kidnapping charge.

Clark said the authorities are now preparing to move him from his home county in eastern North Carolina to Marion, in the western part of the state. She said the defense is now organizing to appeal the conviction.

IN NEW INTERNATIONAL NO. 10

- **Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War**
  Jack Barnes
- **What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold**
- **Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution**
  Mary-Alice Waters
- **The Curve of Capitalist Development**
  Leon Trotsky **$14.00**

DISTRIBUTED BY PATHFINDER

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Youth groups prepare for anti-imperialist festival in Algiers

BY JACK WILLEY

ALGIERS, Algeria—Representatives of anti-imperialist youth and student groups from more than 25 countries met here May 26-28 to discuss the next steps in preparing the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students. The festival, which takes place in Algiers August 8-16, will bring together thousands of youth from around the globe. Given its location, it is expected to draw attendance particularly from Africa and the Middle East.

The program offers nine days of discussion and debate on wide ranging political topics, including the struggles for self-determination in Palestine, Western Sahara, and Puerto Rico; the U.S. military buildup in Latin America; and U.S. imperialism's drive to expand NATO eastward.

The preparations for the gathering take place amidst sustained street actions by hundreds of thousands of working people and youth in Algeria protesting the brutal actions by national police forces, who have killed dozens of antigovernment demonstrators. Led by Berbers, an oppressed nationality in Algeria and other North African countries, the demonstrations have also championed the demand that the Berber people have the right to be taught in their native language in school.

Harchand Singh, general secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), the sponsor of the event, reported that numerous individuals and groups that are not affiliated to WFDY, and that the international organization has not had contact with in the past, have expressed interest in participating in this year's world youth festival. This poses a welcome challenge for WFDY to broaden participation beyond that of most previous festivals, Singh indicated.

Leaders of youth organizations in Algeria reported at the preparatory meeting here that some 1,100 people from this country are expected to attend the festival. Leonidas Mushokolura from the Pan-African Youth Movement reported that 200 youth are expected to come from South Africa, 150 each from Eritrea and Tanzania, and substantial contingents from Western Sahara and other countries in Africa.

More than 100 are coming from Lebanon and hundreds are taking chartered flights from Cuba, north Korea, and Venezuela, organizers reported.

Building Algiers festival in U.S.

Jacob Perasso, from the Young Socialists in the United States, spoke at the meeting about the growing opportunities in that country to bring young workers and students to the festival. He pointed to protests in several U.S. cities, led by immigrant workers, to demand the right to a driver's license without having to present a Social Security card, which constitutes a fight against the government's broader attempts to impose a national identification card on all U.S. residents.

Perasso noted that some of the militant youth involved in these as well as other social protest actions, such as the protests in Cincinnati, Miami, and elsewhere against police brutality, are looking for broader solutions. Some of them will be participating in the July 22-30 Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange to meet with Cuban youth and learn more about the socialist revolution there and recent initiatives by working people and their leadership to strengthen the revolution. Many of these youth will also want to go to Algiers to meet and share experiences with other revolutionary-minded youth, Perasso said.

During the international planning meeting, the National Union of Algerian Youth, one of the groups hosting the Algiers gathering, organized trips to the university campuses where festival participants will be housed and to the stadium where some of the main events will be held.

They also reported on efforts to arrange discounted tickets for airfare and marine travel to Algiers from several meeting points around the world, in order to lower the cost of the trip and encourage greater participation.

Delegates from Western Sahara invited those attending the meeting to the fifth national congress of UJSARIO, the youth organization of the Polisario Front, which has been leading the decades-long independence struggle of the Saharaui people, first against imperialist Spain and now against the Moroccan regime's occupation. The June 9 congress will take place in one of the main refugee camps in Western Sahara.

A National Preparatory Committee (NPC) has been established in the United States. It is endorsed by Just Act, U.S. Students Association, United Students Against Sweatshops, Young Communist League, Young Socialists, and Youth Action. The NPC's next meeting is scheduled for June 9.

The expenses for the Algiers festival include $250 for housing, food, and transportation in Algeria, a $200 administrative fee that will help to provide some scholarship funds, and the cost of the round-trip flight to Algiers. Those interested in participating can contact the U.S. NPC by calling (212) 741-2033, or at its web page: www.usnpc.org. They can also contact the Young Socialists National Office by calling (212) 695-1809; or by e-mail at youngsocialists@attglobal.net

Revolutionary literature scarfed up at Algeria meet

ALGIERS, Algeria—At the May 26–28 planning meeting for the World Festival of Youth and Students, several people from youth groups in African countries were pleased to learn that they could buy books with the speeches and writings of communists and other revolutionary leaders. These Pathfinder books and pamphlets had been brought by the Young Socialists attending the meeting from Britain and the United States. Several of those present were particularly interested in reading speeches by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 revolutionary upsurge in Burkina Faso, which Pathfinder publishes in French and English. They also picked up several books by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara and by communist leaders from the United States.

Other Pathfinder titles purchased included *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, *Capitalism's World Disorder* in both English and French, and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* in Spanish, French, and English, as well as a range of issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* and its sister French-language publication *Nouvelle Internationale*.

—J.W.

Health-care workers rally in Vancouver for new union contract

Militant/Monica Jones

More than 1,000 health-care employees rallied May 31 in Vancouver, British Columbia, for a new contract and to protest government cuts to the public health system. Nurses in British Columbia rejected a proposed wage agreement June 6. Since the beginning of April they have been organizing job actions that involve refusing to work overtime or to perform non-nursing duties.

Dockworker defense rally gains support

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Union members, opponents of police brutality, and others across the country have been making plans to take part in the June 9 Rally for Racial Justice and Workers Rights taking place in Columbia, South Carolina. The central demand of the action is the dropping of all charges against the Charleston Five—members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) who are facing felony charges of "inciting to riot" for their involvement in a union picket line that was attacked by the cops.

Leonard Riley, a member of the executive board of ILA Local 1422 in Charleston, South Carolina, explained the stakes in this case June 2 at the southern regional conference of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) in Atlanta. "If these men are allowed to go to jail, it has a chilling effect on the labor movement," he said. "We have a constitutional right to picket."

The case stems from a dispute between the ILA and Nordana Lines, which in late 1999 began using a nonunion company to load and unload its ships. Dockworkers picketed these ships to defend their union rights. On Jan. 20, 2000, some 600 police assaulted 130 pickets, injuring several workers. Five of the longshoremen are now facing criminal charges that could carry up to 10 years in prison.

"Eighteen months later these men are still under house arrest," Riley told the UNITE conference. They cannot leave their homes at night except for work or union meetings, and must get special permission to travel. "These are fundamental civil rights," he emphasized.

On May 31, state attorney general Charles Condon issued a statement denouncing a press conference held by the South Carolina Progressive Network to publicize the June 9 rally as "ridiculous and absurd." He rehashed the government's version of the police riot, and vowed to "prosecute these cases fully and vigorously.... The right of South Carolina citizens to refuse to join a labor union will be upheld."

The call for the June 9 rally got a warm response at the UNITE conference. Many locals have already been signing people up to go on buses—from Kannapolis, North Carolina to Columbus and Tignall, Georgia.

The rally was promoted at the May 26–27 conference of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in Miami. Some of the young people demonstrating against police brutality in Cincinnati June 2 had heard of the Columbia rally and were making plans to attend.

Buses are coming from Atlanta, Detroit, New York, and ports up and down the East Coast. Riley said dockworkers on the West Coast and in Houston are also sending contingents. Participants will assemble at 11 a.m. in Memorial Park (Gadsden St. and Hampton St.) in downtown Columbia and then march to the South Carolina statehouse for a rally. The Charleston Five themselves will not be present, because the terms of their house arrest forbid their participation in any rallies.

On June 8, the ILA will host an event at its hall in Charleston where supporters can meet the five framed-up workers before boarding buses for the Columbia rally the next day.

Naomi Craine is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 1501.

Pittsburgh YS makes fund drive goal

BY BERNARD ISLEY

PITTSBURGH—The Young Socialists here has participated in different activities to raise funds for the $2,400 national YS fund drive. The local goal we set out to meet by July 1 was $200.

The money raised will help the YS function as an independent, self-financed organization, one important aspect of maintaining a revolutionary youth organization as part of the communist movement.

On the weekend of May 26–27, socialist workers who are garment workers and coal miners held meetings here of their national trade union fractions. The YS chapter took the opportunity to sell raffle tickets to raise funds. On Saturday the Militant Labor Forum hosted a reportback by Cindy Jaquith, a garment worker from Miami, who spoke of the experience of the volunteers who staffed the Pathfinder booth at the recent Tehran International Book Fair and the importance of the Iranian Revolution. Later that evening at a social gathering at the new Pathfinder Bookstore location, more raffle tickets were sold.

On Sunday during the lunch session of the meetings by socialist garment workers and coal miners the YS organized a lunch to raise funds for the drive where more raffle tickets were sold.

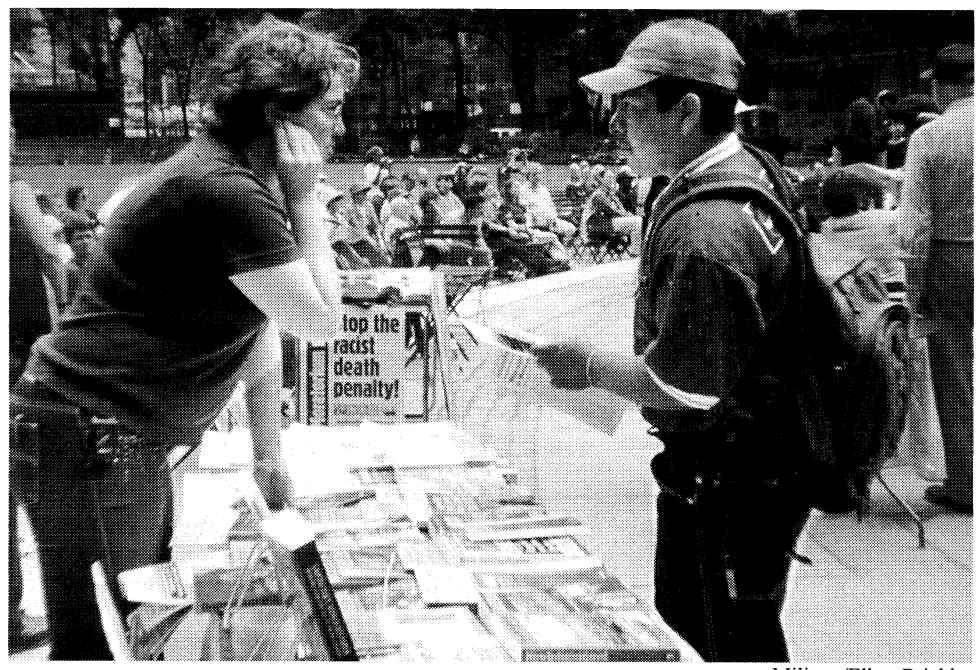
The YS raised $202 during the weekend, surpassing our goal.

We are also focusing a lot of our attention on working with other young people in the area to build a delegation to the Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, including by reaching out to the Black Action Society as well as the Spanish Club at the University of Pittsburgh. Many youth are interested and we are in the process of discussing licenses and ideas to raise funds.

Young Socialist Fund Drive May 6–July 1

City	Goal	Paid	%
Pittsburgh	**200**	**202**	**101%**
Tucson	300	251	84%
New York	700	317	45%
Seattle	90	25	28%
Twin Cities	300	78	26%
Chicago	300		0%
Los Angeles	450		0%
Philadelphia	150		0%
Tuscaloosa			
Other		427	
Total	**2,490**	**1,300**	**54%**
Nat'lgoal/ should be	**2,400**	**1,200**	**50%**

‘Militant’ supporters go all out to win new readers, meet goal



Militant/Ellen Brickley

Demonstrators at June 2 New York rally against death penalty bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and Pathfinder books.

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In Chicago, Detroit, New York, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere, campaigners for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are pushing to conclude a successful international drive to win new readers to the socialist press. They are making use of the final days of the campaign to build the June 14–17 Active Workers Conference in Ohio and meet workers and youth interested in joining the communist movement.

Socialist workers and Young Socialists are also taking advantage of the new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* to deepen discussions about working-class struggles in the United States and the need to build a revolutionary party capable of leading the struggle for political power. This is one of the most effective ways to sell *Militant* and *PM* subscriptions.

Coming out of a target week the drive has gained the kind of momentum needed to meet the international goals. This week’s sales chart—in addition to phone calls and e-mail reports indicating even more progress—shows a concerted effort in the final week can make a difference in the drive. The May 26–June 3 target week was our best week yet with sales of 115 *Militant* subscriptions, 53 *PM* subs, and a whopping 455 books and pamphlets. Organizing daily sales activities in workers districts, selling at plant gates and on the job, and participating in political events can ensure success and push the drive over the top.

“We made all our sales goals after selling the *Militant* and *PM* near the Perdue poultry plant in Georgetown, Delaware, where workers walk and ride their bicycles to work,” reports Stu Singer, a meat packer in Washington. Socialist workers in the city plan to continue the circulation campaign on the job this week and have planned sales activities every evening. “Several of us are also going to South Carolina on a bus sponsored by the AFL-CIO for the rally to demand justice for dockworkers fighting frame-up riot charges,” Singer reported.

Discussing the new book with workers and youth interested in socialist literature is one of the best ways to win new readers. By going through the photo pages of the book, many protesters against cop brutality, co-workers on the job, unionists on picket lines, and others can be convinced to subscribe and get a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* for only $5 more. The pictures and descriptions of determined and confident workers and farmers in struggle, from civil rights fighters defending themselves against Klan violence to defense guards of the Teamsters confronting employer-financed fascist forces in Minnesota in the 1930s, and the combatants in Cuba who put an end to brutality against working people there by taking political power, help many see the broader goals of and possibilities for revolutionary struggle.

Liz Wayman from Pittsburgh said she and others found a good response at the recent demonstration against police violence in Cincinnati. Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party members from six cities “joined about 2,000 protesters from all over the country,” she wrote. “Many of the marchers there expressed clear disgust with the capitalist system of ‘justice,’ especially concerning the brutality police are allowed to inflict on ordinary citizens who have no recourse for defending themselves against cop attacks that may or may not be witnessed or reported.

“It rained but that didn’t stop our team’s energy,” she wrote. “Together we sold eight subscriptions to the *Militant*, six copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, five of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, as well as one copy of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, *Is Biology Woman’s Destiny?* and several titles in Spanish,” said Wayman. “One young woman I talked to asked me what I recommended as a good title to read, and I suggested *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*. She examined the front and back, then stated it seems worth the risk. When I suggested a *Militant* to go with it, she bought one and asked if there was contact information in it.”

Target week boosts sub drive

“In the New York Garment District we set up five literature tables on Sunday and called up people we met earlier who told us to call them back about subscribing to the *Militant,*” said Dan Fein. “We visited a Dominican worker who decided to purchase a *Militant* subscription and three books. During our discussions with him about working-class politics and the Cuban Revolution he remarked, “Look how the U.S. government is spending all this money on more prisons and cops. What does that tell you about this country?’”

Fein said they sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions, 5 *PM* subscriptions, and 21 copies of the three books and pamphlets that are part of the drive that day. “This capped off a successful target week where we sold 22 *Militant* subscriptions, 11 *PM* subscriptions, and 45 pamphlets.” Fine noted that several garment workers in the area purchased copies or subscriptions to the socialist publications. Two members of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa visiting the United States stopped by a street table and purchased nearly $100 of literature, including titles by Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Malcolm X, and Jack Barnes.

Socialist workers in Grand Junction wrapped up a successful target week with a visit to Kemmerer, Wyoming. They sold the *Militant* at the Pittsburg & Midway coal mine portal and door-to-door in Kemmerer and neighboring Diamondville.

“At the portal the first miner who stopped said he had sent his subscription in two weeks ago,” wrote Jeremy Rose. “Two more miners stopped and signed up for subscriptions. One also got a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*.

“A third miner said he didn’t have any money with him, but wanted to subscribe. He gave us his phone number and asked us to call him later. When we arrived at his house, he already had a subscription coupon filled out. He explained he’d been reading his brother’s sub for a while and had been meaning to send it in. After a political discussion with us he also decided to buy *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *Pathfinder was Born with the October Revolution*.

“A retired miner also bought a subscription. All told we sold four *Militant* subscriptions, four pamphlets, a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and seven copies of the *Militant*.”

Militant/PM subscription drive to win new readers
April 14–June 10 (week 7)

	Militant			PM		Pamphlet	
Country	**Goal**	**Sold**	**%**	**Goal**	**Sold**	**Goal**	**Sold**
Sweden	**12**	**10**	**83%**	**5**	**7**	**20**	**13**
New Zealand							
Auckland	**10**	**9**	**90%**	**1**		**20**	**20**
Christchurch	8	5	63%	1	1	10	8
N.Z. total	18	14	78%	2	1	30	28
United Kingdom	35	26	74%	10	10	70	32
Australia*	12	8	67%	2	2	35	31
United States							
Detroit	**20**	**21**	**105%**	**5**	**4**	**40**	**40**
Miami	**22**	**20**	**91%**	**20**	**12**	**70**	**60**
Washington*	**27**	**24**	**89%**	**26**	**24**	**60**	**73**
Cleveland	20	16	80%	6	3	30	31
Seattle*	25	20	80%	8	9	55	42
Twin Cities	35	27	77%	25	28	50	42
Grand Junction	25	19	76%	5	5	50	38
Pittsburgh	40	30	75%	5	2	55	36
Tampa	8	6	75%	6		15	13
Omaha	15	11	73%	18	19	20	13
NY Garment Dist.	70	50	71%	55	39	150	120
Newark	40	28	70%	25	17	70	52
Birmingham*	25	17	68%	7	6	45	29
Los Angeles	50	34	68%	25	22	80	27
Charlotte	12	8	67%	4	3	25	25
Fresno	9	6	67%	9	2	15	2
Des Moines	30	19	63%	20	23	45	50
Chicago	35	22	63%	25	19	75	68
Tucson	8	5	63%	5	1	6	
Houston	35	21	60%	15	9	50	42
Upper Manhattan	70	40	57%	50	48	125	118
Boston*	25	14	56%	10	12	20	14
Philadelphia	30	16	53%	10	6	45	12
San Francisco	50	26	52%	25	21	100	94
Allentown	18	9	50%	5	3	20	9
Atlanta	30	15	50%	15	8	40	20
Brooklyn	75	29	39%	40	26	150	110
U.S. total	849	553	65%	469	371	1506	1180
Canada							
Vancouver	15	10	67%	2	2	35	15
Toronto	20	11	55%	3	1	40	26
Montreal	12	5	42%	5	2	40	38
Canada total	47	26	55%	10	5	115	79
Iceland*	6	3	50%	1		45	42
Int’l totals	**979**	**640**	**64%**	**499**	**396**	**1821**	**1405**
Goal/Should be	**1000**	**870**	**87%**	**500**	**435**	**1900**	**1653**
	IN THE UNIONS						
Australia							
MUA	2	1	50%			5	3
Meat workers	2	1				3	1
Total	2	1	50%				
United States							
UMWA	25	19	76%	1		25	13
UFCW	65	27	42%	80	65	170	76
UNITE	35	11	31%	30	17	70	28
Total	125	57	46%	111	82	265	117
New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			2	1
MWU	1	0	0%			1	0
Total	3	1	33%			3	1
Canada							
UFCW	10	3	30%	2	0	15	7
UNITE	2		0%	2		9	5
Total	12	3	25%	4	0	24	12
raised goal*							

New magazine on Spanish titles reviews two new Pathfinder books

BY HILDA CUZCO

Críticas, a new magazine about Spanish-language books, carried two reviews of Pathfinder titles in its Summer 2001 issue. The magazine is oriented to book sellers and is a joint publication of the *Library Journal*, the *School Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly*.

Reviews were run on *Che Guevara habla a la juventud* (*Che Guevara Talks to Young People*), and *Haciendo historia* (Making History: Interviews With Four Generals of Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces). Giving a brief description of the books, the magazine notes its recommendation to individual readers or libraries.

In his review of *Che Guevara habla a la juventud,* Eduardo Tinoco, from Lehman Brothers Library in Los Angeles, recommends the book “for academic libraries with a Latin American studies program and any large public library that serves a large Latino population. This book will be of particular interest to the Cuban American community.”

The Pathfinder title contains eight speeches Che Guevara gave to young audiences in Cuba between 1959 and 1964. The Argentine-born revolutionary became one of the central leaders of the Cuban Revolution and led a guerrilla campaign in Bolivia until he was captured and killed in October 1967 by Bolivian government forces. *Che Guevara habla a la juventud* was published with the cooperation of Casa Editora Abril, the publishing house of the Union of Young Communists in Cuba, and features a preface by Armando Hart, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters points out in the introduction to *Che Guevara habla a la juventud* that the revolutionary leader “speaks as an equal with the youth of Cuba and the world” and “urges them to aspire to be revolutionary combatants, knowing that a different kind of society can be born only out of struggles by men and women ready to put their lives and their lifetimes on the line for it.”

Haciendo historia was published by Pathfinder in 1998 in collaboration with Editora Política in Havana. The interviews in the book with Cuban generals Néstor López Cuba, Enrique Carreras, José Ramón Fernández, and Harry Villegas provide a wealth of information on the Cuban Revolution, the internationalist missions the generals led and participated in, and world-historic events such as the Cuban victory over the U.S.-backed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and the October “missile” crisis a year later.

José Díaz, of the Ohio State University Library in Columbus, says in his review published in *Críticas* that Washington’s military defeat has “acquired mythical proportions.” Díaz explains that in the book the “generals present their views on issues ranging from the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions to the Bay of Pigs, the Vietnam War, and Cuba’s involvement in Angola. It is interesting to hear the voices of career soldiers in an army we know so little about.” Díaz views the book as offering “little more than Socialist rhetoric sprinkled with the usual condemnation of U.S. politics and economics,” and recommends the title “only for academic libraries with strong Cuban collections.”

Gas workers in Chicago strike over safety

BY CAPPY KIDD

CHICAGO—Some 1,050 natural gas workers represented by Service Employees International Union Local 18007 were forced on strike May 19 by Peoples Gas, a privately owned utility that enjoys a monopoly in Chicago. The workers service and maintain a system that supplies hundreds of thousands of homes and commercial buildings.

Participating in a rally of 200 striking workers and their families, Jorge Beltrán said in an interview, "The strike is not about money. It's about safety issues and work rule changes. When I started 13 years ago in the distribution department, we had three- and four-man crews. Now they want to reduce it to one person. If you are working in a hole and you get gassed, you could pass out, and if there is no one there to help you, you could die."

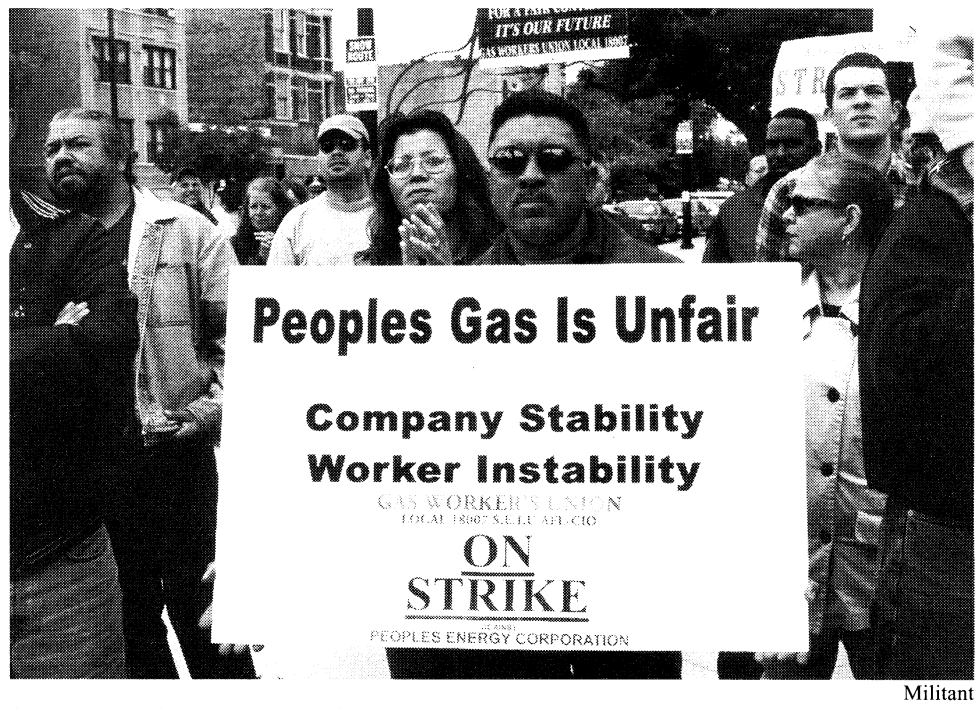
Beltrán added, "They also want to get rid of union jobs in the clerical and storeroom positions. They want to freeze people at entry-level pay while forcing them to take on the workload of the experienced mechanics, and eliminate overtime pay for Saturdays."

A fact sheet distributed by the striking local states, "Peoples Gas has made almost $100 million in profit for the first six months of its fiscal year so far—up almost 15 percent from the previous period last year."

William Ocasio, alderman for the largely Puerto Rican neighborhood where the rally took place, told the demonstrators, "They've refused to meet with the union and they're putting the city of Chicago at risk, forcing office employees to do work they are not trained for. They've sent letters to each union member asking them to resign from the union. How arrogant can a company be?"

Peoples Gas has recently come under fire for cutting off the gas service for tens of thousands of customers who could not pay their bills after a winter of record high gas prices.

Tom Brennan, the business manager of Local 18007, told the rally that his parents, who are in their 80s, have paid their Peoples Gas bills regularly for the last 60 years, but because they were unable to meet the high bills this winter they recently received a notice saying, "Pay up now or be disconnected."



Militant

Some 200 strikers and their families rallied May 19 against Peoples Gas in Chicago

Massachusetts nurses fight mandatory overtime

BY TED LEONARD

BROCKTON, Massachusetts—Hundreds of nurses and their supporters walked the picket line here the morning of May 25 when the 465 nurses at Brockton Hospital went on strike.

Signs on the picket line explained the main issues in the strike, "No More Mandatory Overtime" and "Safe Staffing Should Be Mandatory."

The nurses are members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), which organizes about 80 hospitals in this state.

The strike, the first by Brockton nurses, comes one year after a victorious strike by nurses at St. Vincent Hospital, in Worcester, Massachusetts, who won a contract that limited mandatory overtime and gave the nurses the right to refuse overtime if they felt too ill or tired to work well.

Since the St. Vincent strike, nurses at University of Massachusetts Medical Center and Providence Hospital have had similar limits on forced overtime placed in their contracts.

Through the negotiations leading up to the strike the hospital agreed to the overtime limits that have been established since the St. Vincent strike—eight times a year, four hours at a time. The Brockton nurses, however, want language in the contract that commits the hospital to exercise its best efforts to maintain adequate staffing without resorting to mandatory overtime.

Barbara Cooke, a medical-surgical nurse with 17 years at Brockton Hospital and a member of the negotiating committee, told the *Boston Globe* that in previous negotiations, the hospital had made verbal promises to limit mandatory overtime, which has instead increased. "We don't trust them," she said.

In a May 18 editorial, the *Boston Globe* reported that according to a recent study, "Patients on understaffed wards are more likely to suffer from pneumonia, urinary tract infections, gastrointestinal bleeding, and shock. Their hospital stays are longer and the researchers said short staffing could be a factor in thousands of deaths annually. At Brockton Hospital, nurses are threatening to strike over what they see as that hospital's refusal to staff adequately and avoid mandatory overtime."

The night before the walkout 200 nurses and their supporters participated in a rally at a local church. There Jeanette Cammarata, with 15 years' service, said in an interview, "I never thought I would have to go on strike, to picket, for staffing issues and patient safety. By us going on strike hopefully it will prevent others from having to do the same thing."

Nurses from half a dozen local hospitals were joined by members of the Building Trades, Fire Fighters, and teachers union. A delegation from St. Vincent Hospital presented a symbolic torch to the Brockton nurses' negotiating committee with "St. Vincent Hospital 2000" and "Brockton Hospital 2001" written on its flames.

Besides the staffing and mandatory overtime issue, pay is also an issue. The union ran a full page ad in the May 24 edition of the Brockton *Enterprise* titled, "An Open Letter to the Residents of Greater Brockton From the Registered Nurses of Brockton Hospital."

It explained, "The hospital is currently offering us a mere 3 percent raise for each year of a three-year contract. We expect and deserve double that and we are not ashamed to demand it. We are insulted by the lack of respect we have received from our management. We are dismayed that while we are forced to go on strike for that respect, our CEO Norman Goodman is being paid more than $500,000 per year, and is given a Mercedes Benz by the hospital. We are equally dismayed that he was awarded a 27 percent raise in the last year, at the same time he proposes to give his nurses only 3 percent each year."

To win public opinion and counter the nurses' demand for more pay, the hospital placed a full-page ad in the *Enterprise*, May 24. With a chart and map showing Brockton nurses' wages are the highest among eight area hospitals organized by the MNA, it posed, "So Why Strike?"

On the picket line a striking nurse explained that the ad conveniently leaves out Boston hospitals that are only 25 miles away and pay more, while it includes hospitals nearly 100 miles away that pay less.

The first day of the strike a Superior Court judge issued an injunction that ordered pickets not to obstruct any of the driveways or entryways to the hospital. The hospital had submitted affidavits of two doctors who said their entry to the hospital "was impeded, but not prohibited, by strikers walking slowly across the driveway entrances to the hospital."

Brockton police have interpreted the judge's order to mean pickets cannot even march across driveways if they deem it delays anyone's entry.

MNA spokesperson David Schildmeier said the union will appeal the injunction. "Walking across entryways has been an accepted picketing practice ever since hospitals were first subject to strike action," he said. "This is the first time we know of that this kind of order has come down from the courts."

The injunction, Schildmeier said, "is part of a strategy to silence the nurses."

Ted Leonard is a meat packer in the Boston area. Sarah Ullman, a garment worker, contributed to this article.

California actions defend immigrant workers

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

SAN JOSE, California—Some 500 immigrant workers and others marched here for equal rights May 27. The action was sponsored by the Centro Azteca de Información (Aztec Information Center). Like a previous march in this city, the action began at the Department of Motor Vehicles and grew as the crowd proceeded to César Chávez Plaza. Marchers were spirited, chanting "*Aquí estamos y no nos vamos*" (We're here and we're not leaving), "*Sí se puede*" (We can do it) and "*¿Qué queremos? Licencia! ¿Cuando? Ahora!*" (What do we want? A license! When? Now!).

The protest was part of a series of actions that have taken place in California to defend the rights of immigrants. The demands include the right to a driver's license, the right to a Social Security number, the right to legal residence for all workers, and a halt to police brutality and unjust imprisonment.

The protests are in response to a decision by the Department of Motor Vehicles last October to begin verifying the validity of all Social Security numbers through a linkup with the Social Security Administration as part of obtaining or renewing a driver's license.

Miguel Benevidas, who works as a gardener, said, "This system beats down workers. I didn't imagine the conditions that workers face here. The bosses and the government treat people in a humiliating way. If the United States gives you $1, it's because they will take two."

A paint shop worker, who makes $6.50 an hour, said, "They deny us everything. If we don't have a license, we can't rent a house or go to school. If we pay taxes, why are we illegal? If the police stop me they can take my car and not return it. Friends of mine were stopped by cops and their car taken and they were left on the freeway. The police treat us real bad."

A 23-year-old man who works as a machinist and is a college student said this was his first march. "The police also stop suspected people and violate their rights. If your car is taken you need to pay $1,000 plus more in fines. This country that always criticizes human rights—well, this is a human right," he said.

José Sandoval, one of the central organizers of the action, introduced a number of speakers, including Roger Rivera of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 438. Rivera announced another rally being organized for August 25. Organizing meetings for the demonstration take place at the UFCW Local 438 union hall.

Deborah Liatos is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 120.

SUBSCRIBE TO

PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL
A Spanish-language socialist magazine

Special offer for new readers: $6 for 4 months

Send your order to Perspectiva Mundial, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Strikers at Camco in Montreal press fight as bosses pull back

BY JOANNE WALLADOR

MONTREAL—Members of Locals 501 and 504 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, on strike against Camco here, were in a confident, fighting mood on the picket line May 23. "We had a welcoming party of 50 people this morning for the bosses when they drove in. All the truckers coming by were honking their horns. We had a truck with loudspeakers for playing music but unfortunately it began to rain," said one worker at the picket office, located not far from the company.

Some 800 workers here are on strike against Camco, which makes household appliances and is owned by General Electric. There is a Camco plant in Hamilton, Ontario, of 1,100 workers organized by the Canadian Auto Workers union.

At this point the company has withdrawn all concessions it originally demanded on pensions, medical benefits, and shifts and is offering parity with the contract signed by workers in Hamilton.

"But we've been out on strike for eight weeks now, said Néré Dutil, vice president of Local 501, and we're asking for something more. We want to lower the penalty by 1 percent for those retiring at 60 and for those retiring at 61. This is the only thing left to negotiate."

This mood was echoed on the picket line. Noël Boyerault said, "We're not going back with nothing. We've been on strike for two months. We want something to show for it."

This demand is supported by older and younger workers alike. Richard Desjardins, a young assembly line worker, explained, "In the beginning the company offered us nothing. Why—because we're Quebecois? The company wanted to make an example of us, but we're turning the tables on them." Desjardins was referring to the fact that average wages in Quebec, an oppressed nation within Canada, are lower than in Ontario.

Desjardins added, "It's not a question of money, it's a question of respect."

Strikers organized a family picnic May 27. They have a web site (http://scep501.multimania.com) to keep supporters of the strike informed of the latest developments.

Marchers in Miami condemn cop killing of Haitian-American

Continued from front page

which would have caused bruising and scarring on Dorvil's ankles, the flyer said. However the official autopsy found no evidence to support this claim. The flyer explained that this is part of the "animalization" of Dorvil by the cops and city authorities.

The official conclusion presented at a public meeting at the Miami-Dade medical examiner's auditorium on May 25 was that Dorvil died of a "rare brain chemistry malady" that caused his behavior to resemble that of a violent reaction to cocaine. The county investigator concluded that he died of "acute exhaustive mania."

The Haitians and African Americans present at the meeting expressed skepticism. "I sense a cover-up here," Islande Salomon told the *Miami Herald*.

"Today is just the beginning. VeyeYo will go back to its base and plan future activities," stated Lavarice Gaudin of VeyeYo, the Haitian rights organization that initiated the march that was then embraced by other organizations. The list of sponsors included the American Civil Liberties Union, the Coalition Against Police Brutality, Brothers of the Same Mind, People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality, and others.

The majority of the protesters were Haitian, and most of them workers. A few women sported UNITE union T-shirts.

Dorvil worked 10-hour days as a carpenter and was a part-time minister. Some of the demonstrators were from his church. Marie Aurelus Bien-Aimee, a 33-year-old medical worker, expressed a common sentiment at the march. "We need justice for the death of Reverend Marc. I've known him for two years and I've never seen him act like that," she said.

There were also protesters from New York, including Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant who was brutalized by New York City cops in 1997. Lavarice Gaudin said, "Abner Louima called us when he heard about the case. He wanted to be a part of this, and he's here with his brother." Louima addressed the rally at the end of the march.

Also present were family members of Patrick Dorismond, a 26-year-old Black youth gunned down by a plainclothes New York City cop after he rebuffed the policeman's request to buy some marijuana from him in March 2000.

Jacqueline Thomas-Jean, a 72-year-old Haitian retired teacher, also came from New York for the event. "There is only one way to make your voice heard, to demonstrate, demonstrate again, and demonstrate more!" she said, "[Nelson] Mandela taught us this."

Militant/Mary Ann Schmidt

Rally in Miami of June 12 demanding justice for Marc Dorvil, killed by the police.

Two weeks before Dorvil's death, Nicholas Singleton, a young Black man, was killed by the police April 30 in the nearby community of Overtown. Signs at the June 2 march called for "Justice for Singleton" and also commemorated other victims of police terror here over the years. The march swelled to 1,000 people as the overcast skies turned to a downpour. One woman shouted, "We don't care about the rain, we want justice!" Under a canopy of umbrellas and sagging placards the protesters marched back to the park. The speakers program went on despite the rain, and was conducted mostly in Creole.

What happened to Marc Dorvil "always seems to happen to Black men," said Leroy Jones, founder of Brothers of the Same Mind, an organization that fights for the rights of former prisoners. "What we really want is an independent investigation and autopsy."

Cindy Jaquith, Rebecca Arenson, and Eric Simpson contributed to this article.

'Terrorism,' 'espionage' used to justify death penalty

BY RÓGER CALERO

Washington is using several terrorism and espionage cases to justify increased use of secret police, jailing based on secret evidence, denial of due process, arrest and extradition of people in other countries, and the federal death penalty.

The cases include that of former FBI agent Robert Hanssen, who is charged with espionage; Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted of bombing a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995; and four men found guilty in the frame-up trial in New York in relation to the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

The prosecution of these individuals puts a spotlight on ways in which Washington is whittling away at democratic rights by using a range of measures adopted under the Clinton administration, such as the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and Clinton's decision to establish a national "counterintelligence czar" to widen Washington's spying operations at home and abroad.

Hanssen pleaded not guilty May 31 to 21 charges of espionage and for betraying the United States by giving sensitive information to Moscow over a 15-year period, including the identities of Russian agents hired by U.S. intelligence, details about U.S. eavesdropping and spying operations in Russia, and Washington's plans for nuclear retaliation in case of war.

The U.S. government prosecutors have made clear their intention to seek the death penalty for Hanssen on several of the charges. This would be the first time Washington has sought the death penalty against someone accused of espionage since Congress reenacted the death penalty for use in espionage cases in 1994. If successful, the U.S. rulers will carry out the first execution on spying charges since Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were put to death in 1953.

Unlike previous cases where lighter sentences have been negotiated in exchange for information about spying activities of the accused, the government has refused to drop the possible use of the death penalty against Hanssen, even if he provides them with information about secrets he allegedly revealed.

The main counts on which the government plans to pursue the death penalty are those claiming that Hanssen revealed information that led to the deaths of two Russians who were spying for Washington. Hanssen's defense lawyers have argued that the application of the death penalty in this case would be unconstitutional since the alleged incident occurred in 1985 when the federal death penalty was not in effect.

The Justice Department is also aggressively pursuing implementation of an execution order against Timothy McVeigh, who up until a few weeks ago was scheduled to be the first person executed on federal charges since 1963. McVeigh, a rightist, proved a useful target for Washington to revive the use of the federal death penalty after he admitted his role in the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building in which 168 people were killed.

The government reluctantly agreed to postpone McVeigh's execution for one month after the FBI, nearly on the eve of the execution, admitted to withholding 4,449 pages of documents from his lawyers concerning the case. Defense lawyers are demanding a longer stay of execution and a new trial. They wrote, government's false statements that everything had been obtained and produced worked a fraud upon the court and defeated Mr. McVeigh's right to a fair trial and sentencing proceeding."

Attorney General John Ashcroft vowed to "oppose vigorously" any further delay. "Based on overwhelming evidence and McVeigh's own repeated admissions, we know that he is responsible for this crime, and we will continue to pursue justice by seeking to carry out the sentence that was determined by a jury," affirmed Ashcroft.

Government prosecutors also plan to seek the death penalty for two of the four men convicted in relation to the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998, where 224 people were killed. The arrest and interrogation of all four men outside of the United States by U.S. officials involved serious violations of democratic rights. These included being threatened by U.S. agents interrogating them, not being advised of their right to remain silent, or their right to have a lawyer present.

A *Washington Post* editorial May 30 heralded the convictions and presented the case "as a rare example of a successful prosecution in U.S. courts for an attack against the United States on foreign soil."

Uproar in South Africa over extradition

More light was shed on the methods used to win the convictions after the trial was over. The Constitutional Court in South Africa, the nation's highest judicial body, ruled May 28, one day before the bombing trial conviction, that the right's of Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, a citizen of Tanzania who the South African government allowed to be extradited, had been violated in several ways.

The court handed down a scathing criticism of the actions of the South African government's Department of Home Affairs. According to the *Sunday Times* of Johannesburg, the court said authorities "had behaved like cowboys riding bareback over the law and ignoring Parliament's carefully constructed checks and balances. The judges concluded that the officials had indeed acted illegally: they had flouted the law, ignored the Constitution, and set an appalling example for the rest of society."

Among the court's findings were that the authorities had no legal right to turn Mohamed over to the U.S. government, he could only be sent back to Tanzania; that he was denied the right to fight an extradition order when he was put on a plane to the United States within 24 hours of his arrest, instead of the usual 72 hours; and that Mohamed was never advised of his right to remain silent and to have a lawyer.

Criticism has also focused on the fact that the South African government, having abolished the death penalty after the overthrow of the racist apartheid regime, is barred by law from extraditing anyone to a country where they face execution if convicted.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Justice Department agreed to a request by the French government to waive the death penalty for James Kopp, a fugitive wanted for the 1998 assassination of Dr. Bernard Slepian, a doctor who performed abortions in upstate New York. Kopp was arrested March 29 in the French province of Brittany. The French government, which abolished capital punishment, has refused to allow the extradition unless Washington pledges not to seek the death penalty in this case.

Final stretch toward $100,000 goal

BY JANET POST

BROOKLYN, New York—As the Pathfinder Fund enters the final stretch, contributors sent in more than $12,000 from around the world this past week. With some $73,000 collected, every day counts now in reaching the $100,000 goal. Any money received by noon on Wednesday, June 13, will be counted on the chart appearing in the next issue, which will be printed that day.

Gaining momentum, supporters in San Francisco, where pledges have now been made by 56 people, raised their local goal from $8,000 to $10,000. This also helps bridge the gap between total local quotas, now at more than $95,000 and the international goal of $100,000.

"We anticipate that we will go over our goal if we collect all the pledges," said Lea Bockman, the Atlanta Pathfinder Fund director. They are planning a special event June 8 featuring Róger Calero, a staff writer for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, speaking on "Cuba and the Coming American Revolution." Also speaking will be Michael Ellis, a high school student from Charlotte, North Carolina, and Linda Joyce, from Atlanta, who volunteers for the Pathfinder Reprint Project.

In New York's Garment District, a public fund-raising meeting drew a full house, including several attending an event there for the first time. The meeting, which featured *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel, sparked discussion that continued informally until well past midnight. Participants included a worker who spoke about resistance by his native Garífona community on Honduras's Atlantic Coast to encroachment by foreign capitalist tourism developers. A young man who had attended the Quebec City protests in April against the Free Trade Area of the Americas and wanted to know what communists thought of them.

Pathfinder Fund 2001

Country/City	Goal($)	Paid	%
United States			
Newark	3,000	3,100	103%
Detroit	2,500	2,510	100%
Los Angeles	6,000	6,020	100%
Upper Manhattan	3,300	3,120	95%
Charlotte	2,700	2,515	93%
Des Moines	1,400	1,216	87%
Omaha	250	215	86%
San Francisco	10,000	8,358	84%
Allentown	900	750	83%
Pittsburgh	6,000	4,988	83%
Tampa	600	475	79%
Brooklyn	4,000	3,099	77%
NY Garment Dist	4,000	3,022	76%
Seattle	8,000	5,900	74%
Twin Cities	4,000	2,818	70%
Boston	3,750	2,515	67%
Chicago	6,500	4,262	66%
Atlanta	3,200	2,085	65%
Houston	3,500	2,165	62%
Birmingham	2,500	1,495	60%
Philadelphia	3,000	1,630	54%
Washington D.C.	2,200	993	45%
Miami	2,000	780	39%
Grand Junction	2,400	880	37%
Cleveland	1,250	434	35%
Fresno	225	50	22%
Other		548	
U.S. Total	87,175	65,943	76%
Australia	$900	532	59%
Belgium	550	0	0%
Canada	5,000	4,884	98%
France	620	579	93%
Iceland		40	
New Zealand	1145	1,045	91%
Sweden	250	151	60%
Int'l Total	**95,640**	**73,174**	**73%**
Int'l Goal/ Should be	**100,000**	**87,000**	**87%**

How Cuban working people crushed U.S.-back

Firsthand account by Efigenio Ameijeiras, head of Revolutionary Police batt

As part of marking the 40th anniversary of revolutionary Cuba's victory over a U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs, we are reprinting excerpts from an account of the battle by Efigenio Ameijeiras. In less than 72 hours, forces from the Rebel Army, volunteer militias, air force, and police crushed an invasion force of 1,500 counterrevolutionaries. The battalion of Revolutionary National Police combatants, led by Ameijeiras and Samuel Rodiles, the second in command, saw some of the heaviest fighting in the April 17–19, 1961, battle. The main group of mercenaries surrendered at Playa Girón, the name by which the battle is identified in Cuba.

Ameijeiras was one of the 82 revolutionaries who, led by Fidel Castro, took part in the *Granma* expedition in December 1956 to initiate the revolutionary war against the U.S.-backed Batista regime. He finished the war as a commander of Rebel Army Column 6 and second in command of the Second Eastern Front under Raúl Castro.

After the January 1959 revolutionary victory, the entire repressive apparatus of the old capitalist regime, including the hated police, was dismantled. A Revolutionary National Police was organized as an institution to help defend the new workers and farmers government. Ameijeiras was named head of the police, which was drawn primarily from Rebel Army combatants.

In 1963 Ameijeiras led a column of Cuban volunteer combatants to Algeria to help stop a U.S.-backed Moroccan assault on the Algerian Revolution; the presence of the Cuban troops forced the Moroccan regime to back down. In 1984 he served an internationalist combat mission in Angola to help that nation defend itself from attack by the apartheid regime of South Africa. Ameijeiras is currently a division general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The excerpts below are taken from a four-part series of articles titled "Girón: The Shortest Battle" published in July 1989 in the Cuban weekly magazine *Bohemia*. Ameijeiras says in an introduction that these articles were "initial notes to write a book presenting that historic date in its full dimension."

The following excerpts are from the first two articles in the series. Next week the *Militant* will run excerpts from the concluding parts. The translation and subtitles are by the *Militant*.

❖

BY EFIGENIO AMEIJEIRAS

Some people wonder: with so many battalions of soldiers and militia, what were the police doing fighting at Playa Girón?

The idea of forming a regular combat unit with police officers came about much earlier. Eighty percent of the police force was made up of Rebel Army combatants with guerrilla experience, mainly from the Frank País Second Eastern Front. Since many of the police were illiterate, I assigned a large group of them to the police school, which we moved from Havana to a farm called El Pitirre. More than 100 combatants were there, raising their level of schooling, taking political education, judo, and other classes.

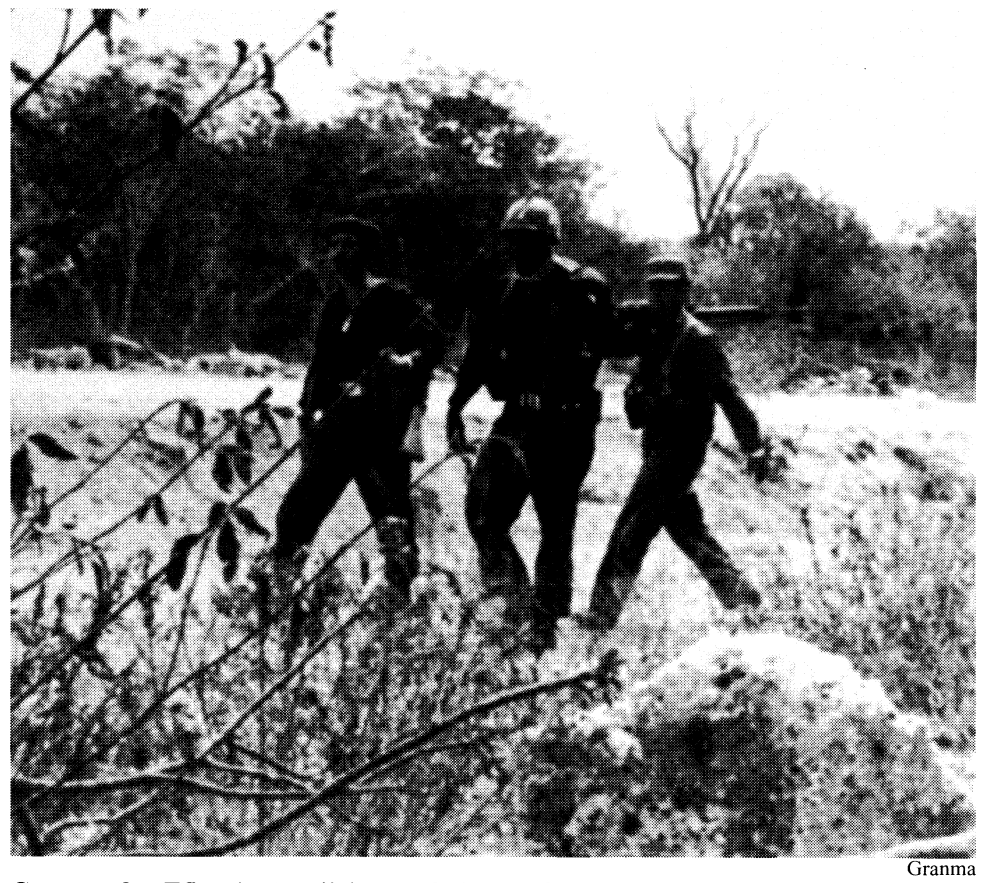
❖

One day, when I was traveling with Fidel, I told him I had more than one company at the police school and that a good combat unit could be constituted if he gave me some FAL rifles—Fidel had already given me 200 FALs for the special troops at the headquarters. I assured him this new unit could be of great value.

As always, Fidel upped the ante: "Why don't you form a battalion with the best officers and sergeants?" That's how the idea of the police battalion was born. It had five heavy companies, all of them with FALs and some Czech submachine guns, and BZ tripod machine guns. He also gave us a company of antitank and antipersonnel grenades to use with the FALs. We also had a squad with 82 mm. mortars, and I could add the two M-8 armored personnel carriers that the police had.

In summary, the battalion had five heavy companies with 156 men each, one light company with 105 men, and another to launch grenades with FALs, as well as a mortar squad and the staff officers. Their mission was to defend the perimeter of the city and rapidly counter any attack on police stations or any other target.

In late 1960, the battalion underwent brief military training at the Managua base, mainly in handling antitank weapons and the accompanying mortars. In December of that year, it occupied the Castillo del Príncipe [in Havana] to head off a possible [counterrevolutionary] attack by paratroopers or helitroopers on the Plaza of the Revolution itself. During the opening days of January, it was placed in ambush position along the Malecón seafront road with a dozen of the Rebel Army's antitank cannon. Throughout March and April, the battalion operated in the northern part of Las Villas province against the first bands of insurgents near Sagua and Corralillo. Later, part of the battalion left to operate in the area of Yaguajay, where we were expecting a landing in support of the insurgents. We returned with the battalion within days of the battle of Girón, and we stationed it in the hills of El Esperón, close to Havana, where they could set up camp and have military, cultural, and political instruction.



Granma

Commander Efigenio Ameijeiras, left, head of Revolutionary National Police, with members of police battalion at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs) in April 1961. The battalion took some of the heaviest casualties in the fighting against well-armed mercenaries.

❖

April 14

I wake up early. Before going to my job at police headquarters, I pass by Point 1 [general staff headquarters], hidden in a residence in the Nuevo Vedado neighborhood. There, as always, is Commander Sergio del Valle, head of the General Staff. Looking calm, with his friendly look and a slight smile, he invites me to have a cup of coffee. Naturally, we talk about the tense situation.

❖

At around midnight I go to El Carmelo, the nicest cafe in Havana. I run into Commander Raúl Díaz Argüelles.... At 2:30 a.m., Argüelles leaves for home and I head toward police headquarters. I leave the guards and take off alone in my car, but they don't say anything to me, because the one time they dared to follow me secretly, I read them the riot act. I'm not feeling well. I can't figure out why I'm feeling so nostalgic and anxious. I go to the Reverbero neighborhood to be, as [Cuban independence leader José] Martí would say, with the poor of the earth. I sit down on the park bench across the street and, oddly enough, there is no one there to talk with about times past.

A passerby recognizes me and looks at me in amazement, perhaps thinking, "The chief of the National Police, alone in a park!" I always thought it was easier to replace a police chief than to kill him. Happiness must be doing the little things we want to do, and maybe that's why duty and power are sometimes a curse. Jesus, with the hatred I always had for the police, who would have thought that I would end up being its chief.

We have to form a new police force that the entire people will care for.

❖

April 15

I am awakened by a horrific explosion that rocks the Chateau Miramar hotel.[1] I jump out of bed, telling myself: the nightmares are over. At the same time I hear the thundering rattle of machine guns. I throw on my pants and shirt, because soldiers don't like to die naked. I open the door cautiously. Then I remember the guards, my loyal comrades. It's daylight, and in the quiet hallway I can hear the noise of airplanes. I look out the south side of the building and hear the infernal noise of machine guns and a plane circling overhead. I'm almost certain it's coming from the direction of the airport at the Ciudad Libertad base, very close by, about 20 blocks away.

I run to the north side of the building and look out at the coast. I hear the sound of a plane as if it were flying over my head, but I don't see it. I don't know what's happening or whether it's only a bombing attack. There is no phone to call headquarters.

I remember that the President of the Republic [Osvaldo Dorticós] lives on the cor-

[1] On April 15, 1961, as a prelude to an imminent invasion of Cuba planned by the Kennedy administration, eight planes piloted by U.S.-organized mercenaries launched simultaneous bombing raids against the airfields of Santiago de Cuba, San Antonio de los Baños, and Havana. In their unsuccessful attempt to destroy Cuba's handful of combat aircraft on the ground, the attackers used Pentagon-supplied B-26 bombers bearing counterfeit insignia of Cuba's Revolutionary Air Force.

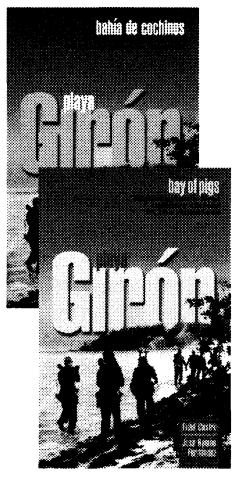
In the early morning hours of April 17 the invasion force landed at the Bay of Pigs. After almost 72 hours of hard combat, the main group of counterrevolutionaries surrendered on April 19, 1961.

New **From Pathfinder**

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas

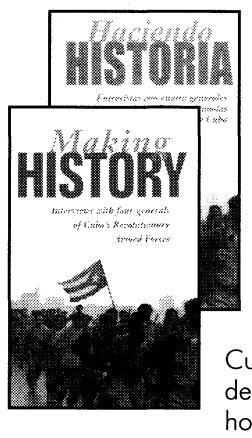
In less than 72 hours of combat during April 1961 near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba's revolutionary militias, police, and armed forces defeated an invasion by 1,500 mercenaries armed, trained, supported, and deployed by Washington. In the process, the Cuban people not only transformed their country and themselves, but set an example for workers and farmers across the Americas and the world. With political consciousness, class solidarity, unflinching courage, and a revolutionary leadership displaying an impeccable sense of timing, it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds—and win. Forty years later the U.S. rulers can still neither accept nor extinguish this example. Foreword by Jack Barnes. In English and Spanish. $20. **Special offer $15**



Making History

Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces

Interviews with Cuban generals Néstor López Cuba, Enrique Carreras, José Ramón Fernández, and Harry Villegas. Through the stories of these outstanding revolutionaries—three of them leaders of the Cuban forces at the Bay of Pigs that defeated the invaders within 72 hours—we can see the class dynamics that have shaped our entire epoch. We can understand how the people of Cuba, as they struggle to build a new society, have for more than 40 years held Washington at bay. With an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. In English and Spanish.$15.95. **Special offer $12**



Special offer

For members of the Pathfinder Readers Club

Both titles for $25

ed Bay of Pigs invasion

alion that took part in heavy fighting

ner, and I look out the window. I see some of the soldiers from his garrison at their battle stations. I go down to join them in preparation for a possible land attack, because everything is confusion at the time.

In the car I turn on the radio and call headquarters. They tell me police patrols have reported a bombing at Ciudad Libertad. I tell myself, "Damn them, they're barbaric, they have no shame, dropping bombs on downtown Havana."

I instruct them to inform the police battalion, which is stationed at El Esperón. I also order them to send me the escort car to 62nd Street and 1st Avenue in Miramar. I am struck by the stance of the President of the Republic, who is dressed as a militia member and is carrying a FAL rifle.

❖

I'm headed for Point 1 when I hear further explosions in the direction of Ciudad Libertad. Trucks loaded with ammunition have caught fire. On arriving we see Fidel there. Sergio tells me they've seen the bombing from there. Fidel calls the San Antonio de los Baños Air Base, the largest one in the country. He learns then that they've bombed there too. Subsequently, a clearer picture of the situation begins to emerge. There have been simultaneous attacks by B-26 bombers on three airports in Cuba: the civilian airport in Santiago de Cuba, by two planes; the San Antonio de los Baños Air Base, by three planes; and the Ciudad Libertad airport, by two planes.

Fidel explains to us that this can be nothing other than the prelude to an invasion. The attack has been so surprising and quick that our pilots have had no time to pursue them, but the antiaircraft units do a great job of responding to the invasion and manage to shoot down one B-26 and damage another. I head over to the headquarters to take the necessary measures. I'm thinking that the land attack might come at any time.

❖

April 16

With sadness and admiration we see the rustic board where a fatally wounded militia member wrote Fidel's name with his fingers smeared in his own blood. That gesture symbolizes the support given to the revolution by those thousands of men, the vast majority of them workers and peasants who have been hastily armed. We are certain that the mystery will be cleared up tonight or by daybreak at the latest.

At the University of Havana, we carry out a night-long wake over the remains of the *compañeros* who died in the brutal attack. Morning came and the burial is prepared. Nothing is happening. It seems like the quietest Sunday we've ever had in the country. Our air force patrols the skies that morning to guard the procession. The funeral cortege completely fills 23rd Street up to 12th Street, where Fidel is to speak. We march silently, compactly. The streets, sidewalks, and balconies are filled with people. We walk apprehensively on a multicolored carpet of flowers that fall from all around. Where had they gotten so many flowers?

In the afternoon Fidel gives his historic speech, where he proclaims the socialist character of the revolution. He calls President Kennedy "María Ramos's pussycat, who throws a stone and hides its hand,"[2] when at the United Nations they [U.S. officials] try to convince people that the bombers had defected from Cuba. He concludes by saying that they were furious because we had made a socialist revolution right under their very nose, and he explains that if these attacks are the prelude to an invasion, then the entire people will be prepared to rise up as one in order to turn it back. He couldn't have been more emphatic and accurate, since the invaders' ships were already sailing toward Cuba. That very Saturday afternoon, the First Secretary of the Party in the USSR [Nikita Khrushchev] offers his support to the revolution.

Strangely, nothing has happened that day. Even the cat is expecting the invasion. I go to bed that night wondering if they have given up on the war.

I wake up early.... I just drink my coffee and leave for Point 1.

April 17

When I arrive everything is aboil. Nobody has to say a word for me to surmise that the moment has come. I'm glad my daughter's crying woke me up early. "It seems there's a landing at Playa Girón," Sergio tells me calmly. But everything is still dark. The landing at Playa Girón has been fully confirmed, but the precise scope of the attack on Playa Larga is still not known.

Fidel contacts the San Antonio Air Base and orders [air force chief] Raúl Curbelo to get the planes ready.

He speaks personally with Capt. [Enrique] Carreras, the pilot who is to lead the squadron toward Girón. He tells him to try to attack only the ships, and to fight against other planes or infantry troops only if attacked by them. He stresses, "Carreras, try to sink the ships for me."

❖

After our planes return victoriously that morning, Fidel predicts, "That's where the bulk of the invaders are. Now we don't need to stop them from landing—we have to wipe them out immediately, giving them no time to consolidate a beachhead." Fidel was doing a tremendous amount of work in his head that day. In addition to working out the strategic conception to combat the operation, he also paid attention to tactical details in every direction. I saw him taking big strides and rolling around the cigar butt in his mouth.

❖

At 7:00 a.m. Carreras takes off again, this time flying a Sea Fury with two bombs, eight rockets, and four 22 mm. cannon. At the Bay of Pigs he once again spots the *Houston*, which has run aground near the coast. He sees they are unloading supplies. At that moment, while he was distractedly looking at the ship, he is surprised by two B-26s from above. They fire on him with machine guns. Carreras reacts quickly, and abruptly makes a tight turn to face his attackers with the nose of his plane. To avoid a collision, the B-26s fan out from right to left. Carreras immediately reverses his turn, sets his sights on one of the B-26s, and fires on it with his four 20 mm. cannon. He set its engine on fire. The B-26 tries to protect itself by flying in the direction of the ships, which help by firing on the attacker, forcing him to shoot up like an arrow to elude the reach of the antiaircraft guns.

Perhaps Carreras didn't know he had planted the seeds of the Cuban Air Force in his solitary heart that day, but he did know Fidel had told him that attacking the enemy's transport vessels would be enough for the seed to germinate. That's why, after the B-26 fell to the water, he pounced on the other ships as fast as lightning. He picked one of the largest in one group, the *Río Escondido*. Carreras was going so fast he had the sensation of a huge ship coming right into his eyes. But he understood he could not fail, and as he came very close to the ship he pushed the button of death. The eight rockets hit the ship's hold. There was a horrendous explosion and the plane seemed to be crashing into it.

To avoid the shock waves, Carreras had to yank furiously on the throttle until he reached a force of 7 Gs, which felt like being pulled by 10 crazed elephants. During the violent climb, the motor suddenly started spewing smoke and the plane shook like a wounded beast. As he kept losing altitude, he was supposed to head toward base and parachute-jump before the engine exploded in air. But since this was the day the Cuban Air Force was meant to be born, Carreras decided to continue flying with the engine failing and the plane losing altitude. He knew there weren't many planes or spare parts. That Sea Fury was worth more than his life. Unaware that the ship he had sunk was the *Río Escondido*, the most important one in the invasion, he was now trying to save his nearly ruined plane. Who says that a man of average height, married, with children, flying in a rickety plane, can't make it to base?

At less than 150 kilometers per hour, nearly grazing the treetops, he landed on the runway at San Antonio de los Baños. At the last second, before touching down, he turned off the fuel ignition and electrical equipment. He felt as if he were stopping at different places on the runway. When he came to a stop, the mechanics ran over to him and said, "Captain, how did you manage to get here?" The submachine gun had destroyed the engine's first cylinder. No one could figure out how he could have landed in those conditions.

The *Río Escondido* sank to the bottom of the bay along with the main supplies for the brigade. There was such panic among the mercenary flotilla that they headed out to sea and never came back.

❖

I leave Point 1 that morning after learning of our initial success in the air. I stop by all the stations. I'm talking like never before, haranguing the police and militias everywhere. Everywhere I go, the applause is rousing and the slogan "Death to the invader!" is repeated with conviction, willingness to fight, and faith in the struggle. When I return to Point 1 in the mid-afternoon, Sergio tells me Fidel has left for the Australia sugar mill. I remain at Point 1 until midnight. Then I go to get a little sleep at police headquarters. First I take a walk through Havana, and I feel certain this is a city under siege awaiting its moment. We are still unaware of how many mercenaries have landed. Judging from the resistance they're putting up at Playa Larga with artillery and tanks, there must be a lot of them. Havana couldn't have been any calmer. The boys in the police battalion are eager to fight. I don't know what Fidel must be thinking. Will there be further landings? Not according to Fidel!

April 18

On the first day of the battle, Fidel fights tenaciously to keep the enemy from establishing a beachhead. On the second day, he critically analyzes the new situation in his usual dialectical way. He says the fight will now be to keep the enemy from re-boarding its ships. In other words, he considers them completely defeated. Around 6:00 a.m. on April 18 at Point 1, Fidel puts his hand on my shoulder and says, "I have a very important mission for you. You guys are tough and you can do it." It's the same order he had given to part of the 123rd Battalion the day before, and to the 111th Battalion that same night—to support the mission by Special Column No. 2 commanded by Capt. Roger García.

He tells me, "We have to isolate the enemy between Playa Larga and Playa Girón. You must advance up to Pálpite in trucks and turn left from there toward Soplillar, almost up to Jiquí. Then, with local peasants as guides, take footpaths and tracks, and turn right toward the coast to get to a midpoint between Playa Larga and Playa Girón, where you should set up an ambush on both sides of the highway and divide it into two sections, with one ambush toward Girón and the other one toward Playa Larga."

He adds that I shouldn't carry the mortars or heavy machine guns, since he will reinforce me with a bazooka company. He also orders Osmany [Cienfuegos] to give me two militia companies from the 116th Battalion.

I tell Commander Argüelles to go get the police battalion at El Esperón and gather them at the patrol car lot in Havana for immediate departure. I know it will take a long time for the entire battalion to get there. More than two hours pass, and only a couple of companies have arrived. A little while later come the light companies of the 116th Battalion, which have been added to our force. It is taking so long that I tell Samuel [Rodiles] to stay and wait for the rest of the battalion and then go with them to the Australia sugar mill, where he will receive instructions from me.

Bohemia/Raúl García

Illustration of Cuban anti-aircraft artillery unit that helped defeat U.S.-backed invasion in April 1961. This and other drawings by Raúl García accompany series of articles by Efigenio Ameijeiras published in Cuban magazine *Bohemia* in 1989.

[2] An expression for someone who does something and then tries to pretend they didn't.

Algeria, 1963-65: how workers and farmers formed their own revolutionary government

In the preface to the new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution,* Mary-Alice Waters describes the international impact of the Algerian Revolution in the early 1960s. After the *Militant* reprinted the preface in the May 28 issue, a number of readers expressed interest in learning more about the Algerian Revolution. Responding to this request, the *Militant* ran an article last week on the lessons of the revolution by Waters, reprinted from the September–October 1965 issue of the *Young Socialist*.

The Algerian Revolution was one of the most powerful of the post-World War II national liberation struggles. The National Liberation Front (FLN—Front de Libération Nationale) led an armed struggle and mobilizations across the country to end the occupation by French imperialism, which had held the country in colonial bondage since 1830. The French government was finally forced to sign accords in 1962 granting Algeria independence, at the cost of 1 million Algerians killed and a country left ravaged by war. The new FLN government, headed by Ahmed Ben Bella, relied on the mobilizations of peasants and workers to carry through a series of anticapitalist measures.

Despite historic gains, the revolution went into retreat. In the 1965 *Young Socialist* article Waters explains the course taken by the leadership of the workers and farmers government in Algeria and the reasons for the stagnation of the revolution and the overthrow of Ben Bella that year.

This week we are reprinting additional material published by the world communist movement on the Algerian Revolution. Most is from the pages of *World Outlook* and its predecessor, *The Internationalist*. Both publications were edited by Joseph Hansen, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, and provided extensive weekly coverage on the developments of the revolution and its international impact.

The first item is a 1964 resolution prepared by Hansen titled, "On the Character of the Algerian Government," adopted by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, the international organization of communist parties at the time. The Socialist Workers Party in the United States had fraternal ties to the Fourth International since its founding in 1938. The resolution was published in the Feb. 21, 1964, issue of *World Outlook* and is available in the Education for Socialists bulletin titled *For a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States* by Jack Barnes.

Copyright ©1974 by Pathfinder Press and reprinted by permission. Footnotes and material in brackets are by the *Militant*.

◆

Resolution: On the Character of the Algerian Government

For some time the course of the new regime in Algeria has shown that it is a "Workers and Farmers Government" of the kind considered by the Communist International in its early days as likely to appear, and referred to in the Transitional Program of the Fourth International, as a possible forerunner of a workers state.

Such a government is characterized by the displacement of the bourgeoisie [from] political power, the transfer of armed power from the bourgeoisie to the popular masses, and the initiation of far-reaching measures in property relations. The logical outcome of such a course is the establishment of a workers state; but, without a revolutionary Marxist party, this is not guaranteed. In the early days of the Communist International it was held to be excluded in the absence of a revolutionary Marxist party. Experience has shown, however, that this conclusion must be modified in the colonial world due to the extreme decay of capitalism and the effect of the existence of the Soviet Union and a series of workers states in the world today.

An essentially bourgeois state apparatus was bequeathed to Algeria. A crisis in the leadership of the FLN (Front de Libération Nationale) came to a head July 1, 1962, ending after a few days in the establishment of a de facto coalition government in which Ferhat Abbas and [Ahmed] Ben Bella represented the two opposing wings of neocolonialism and popular revolution. The struggle between these two tendencies within the coalition ended in the reinforcement of the Ben Bella wing, the promulgation of the decrees of March 1963 and the ouster successively of [Mohammed] Khider, Ferhat Abbas, and other bourgeois leaders although some rightist elements still remain in the government. These changes marked the end of the coalition and the establishment of a Workers and Peasants government.

As is a characteristic of a Workers and Peasants Government of this kind, the Algerian government has not followed a consistent course. Its general direction, however, has been in opposition to imperialism, to the old colonial structure, to neocolonialism and to bureaucratism. It has reacted with firmness to the initiatives of would-be new bourgeois layers, including armed counterrevolution. Its subjective aims have repeatedly been declared to be the construction of socialism. At the same time its consciousness is limited by its lack of Marxist training and background.

The question that remains to be answered is whether this government can establish a workers state. The movement in this direction is evident and bears many resemblances to the Cuban pattern. A profound agrarian reform has already been carried out, marked by virtual nationalization of the most important areas of arable land. Deep inroads have been made into the old ownership relations in the industrial sector with the establishment of a public and state-controlled sector. Yet to be undertaken are the expropriation of the key oil and mineral sector, the banks and insurance companies, establishment of a monopoly of foreign trade, and the inauguration of effective counter measures to the monetary, financial, and commercial activities of foreign imperialism.

Above, revolutionary leader Ahmed Ben Bella, center, with children orphaned in Algerian independence war against French colonial rule, 1963. Left, Berber women in Kabylia greet Ben Bella in pro-revolution rally the same year. Communist publication *World Outlook* described how a workers and farmers government arose in Algeria, and how working people used it to take initial steps in land reform, slash rents, establish more control on the job in factories, and other far-reaching social measures heading in an anticapitalist direction. They also successfully repelled an imperialist-backed invasion by the Moroccan regime.

Among the most heartening signs in Algeria are (1) in foreign policy the establishment of friendly relations with Cuba, Yugoslavia, China, the Soviet Union, and other workers states with the possibility this opens up for substantial aid from these sources; (2) the active attitude of the government toward developing the colonial revolution in such areas as Angola and South Africa; (3) within Algeria the establishment of the institution of "self-management." "Self management," with its already demonstrated importance for the development of workers and peasants democracy, offers the brightest opening for the establishment of the institutions of a workers state.

As a whole, Algeria, as we have noted many times, has entered a process of permanent revolution of highly transitional character in which all the basic economic, social, and political structures are being shaken up and given new forms. This process is certain to continue. It will be greatly facilitated and strengthened if one of the main problems not on the agenda—the organization of a mass party on a revolutionary Marxist program—is successfully solved.

The appearance of a Workers and Peasants Government in Algeria is concrete evidence of the depth of the revolutionary process occurring there. It is of historic importance not only for Algeria and North Africa but for the whole African continent and the rest of the world.

From *The Internationalist*, Feb. 27, 1963. Algerian Government Slashes Rents

The Ben Bella government announced February 19 it was establishing rent ceilings which will be among the lowest in the world when they go into effect March 1. Rents per room will range from 1,500 to 7,650 francs ($3 to $15.30).

The new rate was calculated at about ten to fifteen percent of income.

Still lower ceilings will be established for certain categories. These include deductions of ten to twenty percent for homes distant from the center of town; and up to forty and fifty percent for the families of victims of the war and veterans.

It is calculated that rent ceilings on the average will thus be ten to twenty percent lower than under French imperialist rule. The action of the Ben Bella government follows the precedent set by the Castro regime, which slashed rents by fifty percent after coming to power.

From *The Internationalist*, March 6, 1963 The Truth About Aid to Algeria's War Orphans

PARIS, March 4—Few people care—really care—it seems, about the fate of Algeria's war orphans. Rich America and prosperous France have slipped inspired stories into the capitalist press that they are about to give all kinds of help to Algeria, which will include help, it goes without saying, to those most desperately in need. Not in any rush, however.

Some radicals—even some socialists—who pride themselves on their capacity to sympathize with human suffering, display an attitude that is not much different. They seem to find it inconvenient to organize even a small campaign of aid.

Thus it would appear that Algeria's war orphans, the tens of thousands of the most pitiful victims of history's most savage colonial war, have been abandoned by the outside world and are even being disregarded by certain officials in Algeria itself.

These are the facts that came out at a press conference held by three young people [who] head Algeria's national organization for war orphans, "El Djil el Djadid." In reply to what the press might do about the situation, one of them said: "Our aim in meeting with you today was to raise a cry of alarm. We propose to organize a national and international campaign. We repeat then, we count on the press to take an active part in the defense of these children who form part of the framework of the reconstruction of the country and the building of socialism."

From *The Internationalist*, April 4, 1963 Important New Measures in Algeria

PARIS—On March 29 the Algerian government enacted into law a number of measures that were initiated during past months in various sectors of the country's economy. Thus another essential step was taken on the road of Algeria's development toward socialism. The two-part decree involves the "organization and management of vacated industrial enterprises and agricultural undertakings" and the "division of the revenue from undertakings and enterprises under self-management."[1]

In addition, on the same night, the Algerian authorities took over some huge properties which were not at all "vacated"; particularly the immense Trappe farms held by Henri Borgeaud, who for many years made and unmade the governor generals sent by France to Algeria. The properties nationalized in this

Continued on Page 15

[1] As French colonialists left Algeria in the final months of the independence war, peasants and workers began to organize "self-management committees" to administer them. With the fields full of crops, peasants organized efforts to bring in the harvest, and soon their committees controlled large sections of land throughout the country. A similar process took place in the factories abandoned by French owners and managers.

The Ben Bella government responded by legalizing and supporting the factory and peasant committees. In 1963 the revolutionary leadership launched a campaign to hold democratic elections to the self-management bodies. Slates of candidates nominated by trade unions or any group of 10 workers or more were registered by an electoral commission and posted three days prior to the elections, which were held by secret ballot. *World Outlook* reported at the time, "Thanks to this electoral campaign for the democratic reorganization of self-management, many farms and factories now have regularly and democratically constituted bodies of self-management."

Protests against sharp social crisis erupt in Dominican Republic

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEWYORK—Protests against police brutality and the deepening social and economic crisis have exploded in a half dozen cities and towns in the Dominican Republic.

The latest rounds of protests began May 12 when police killed Rubén Darío in Capotillo, a working-class neighborhood in the northern part of Santo Domingo, the capital city.

The cops fatally shot Darío while he was reading a newspaper at his front door, according to the Spanish-language daily *Hoy*, published in New York. The Dominican Human Rights Committee charged that he was killed because he had managed to avoid an April 24 police operation to capture political activists. Abel Rojas, a community leader, was arrested in that action.

Neighborhood residents took to the streets immediately, protesting the killing and demanding the removal of Maj. Gen. Pedro de Jesús Candelier, the chief of the National Police, who is widely hated. Since the start of the protests five people in Capotillo have been killed and more than 200 arrested.

Candelier, a graduate of the U.S. School of the Americas, was named chief of police two years ago under the government of President Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

The current president, Hipólito Mejía of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), promised to bring to justice those responsible for the killings in Capotillo, but kept Candelier in his post. The police chief tried to defend the killings, claiming the victims "are not little angels." Over the past two years, more than 400 people have been killed by the police.

Three days after Darío's death, protests against electrical blackouts and the lack of drinking water began in Santiago, in the north of the country, and Neyba in the south. There have also been protests in San Cristóbal, 22 miles southeast of Santo Domingo. The widespread and unpredictable blackouts and the general deterioration of basic services have generated increasing outrage in working-class neighborhoods and rural areas of this Caribbean nation over the years.

36-hour blackouts

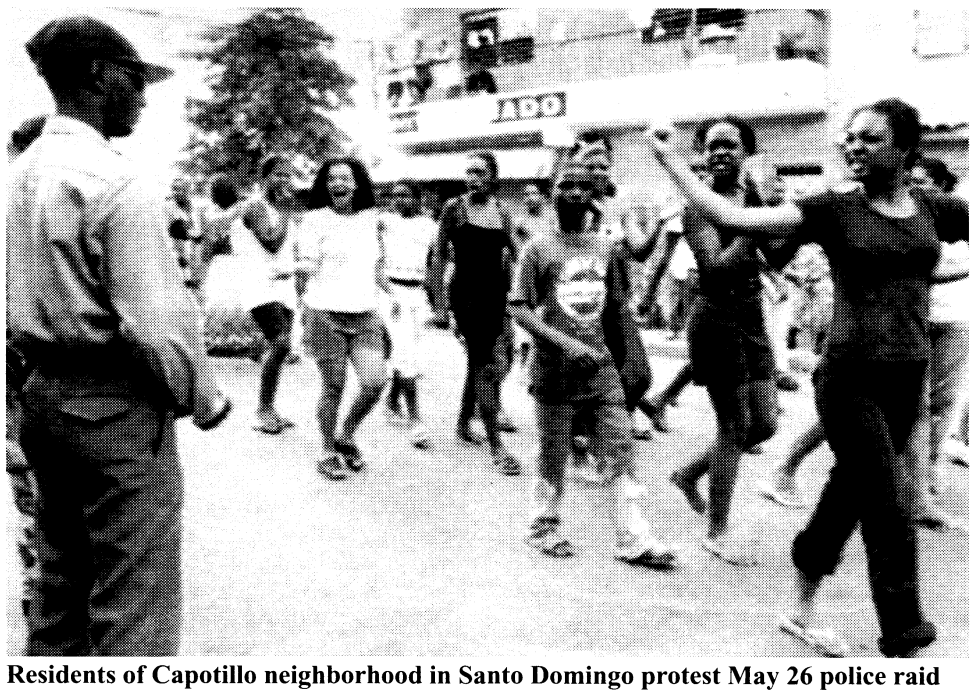
According to *El Nacional*, a daily newspaper in Santo Domingo, blackouts—some for up to 36 hours at a time—are increasingly common throughout the country "in spite of the fact that electrical generation exceeds the demand." In many cases the electric company claims that it has to cut off electricity to whole neighborhoods because people are not paying their bills.

Several people were wounded in attacks by the cops in Navarrete, where protesters were demanding more schools, roads, and public works programs. The Broad Front of Popular Struggle (FALPO) organized strike actions, which also included a demand for "more equitable" distribution of power outages.

The cops accused demonstrators in Navarrete of firing on them with automatic weapons. "Until now the police have been prudent," claimed police spokesperson Major Nelson Rosario, "But we will not be pusillanimous in the face of vandalism and disturbance of peace and tranquillity." He threatened that the cops would "employ all the power they consider necessary."

Fidel Santana, national spokesperson of FALPO, denied that demonstrators have been armed. From police custody he charged that it is the cops themselves who have infiltrated demonstrations to make it look like the protesters are violent. Their objective, Santana said, "was to create scapegoats so that they can continue repressing" the protest actions.

Some 20 leaders of FALPO have been detained by the police for having called for protests demanding the release of those arrested during the past week.



Residents of Capotillo neighborhood in Santo Domingo protest May 26 police raid

Capotillo, a traditional center of working-class militancy, has been occupied by the police, the National Directorate of Drug Control, and police SWAT teams. According to *Hoy*, "Since 4:00 a.m. on May 26, SWAT, drug agents, and antiriot police patrols occupied the streets" of Capotillo, brazenly entering homes. As of June 1 the cops were still posted at all the entrances to the neighborhood and have arrested dozens of youth. The police and army have also occupied neighborhoods in Navarrete and Licey.

From Pathfinder

The Communist Manifesto

By Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains why communism is derived not from preconceived principles but from facts and proletarian movements springing from the actual class struggle. $3.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12

Cincinnati rally condemns killing by cops

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS AND VAL LIBBY

CINCINNATI—Some 2,000 people marched here June 2 demanding justice for Timothy Thomas, a 19-year-old Black youth gunned down April 7 by the police. One of largest recent protests against killings by cops in the city, the march included unionists, high school and college students, community activists, and clergy. The march also drew some participants from other cities, including Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, and Newark, New Jersey.

"Our union has always supported actions against police brutality," said Veronica Davis, a member of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1199, who participated in the march. "It is atrocious the way Black youth are being killed by the police. These killings would not be tolerated for any other segment of the population. There is no value to Black life."

The March for Justice was kicked off by a rally downtown, as the predominantly youthful crowd gathered to hear several speakers, despite the rain. "I pray my son will be the last one to die, but I don't think he will be," said Angela Leisure, mother of Timothy Thomas. "Who will be the next parent to lose their child?"

Leisure thanked participants at the rally for "standing up for justice."

Several youth addressed the rally. One of them, 14-year-old Derrick Blasingame, remarked, "We were not rioting, we were rebelling," referring to how previous media reports of protests against Thomas's death were described as "riots."

Baldemar Velázquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, also spoke at the rally.

As the march proceeded from downtown Cincinnati, protesters chanted, "When the cops attack, we fight back," "No justice, no peace, no racist police," and "Get those animals off the horses," pointing to cops on horseback. Many people carried banners, placards, and homemade signs.

"Police brutality has been going on in Cincinnati for a very long time. I remember it from the time I was a small child," said Derek Edwards, a hotel worker. "People close to me have been shot and killed by the police. It's about time we demonstrated."

Mel Stormer said the march was his first protest. "I started about six or eight weeks ago, by joining in the Freedom Fridays, when people picket outside the courthouse to protest the injustice in the justice system."

"This was a resounding statement by those of us who came from many areas that police brutality is not going to go unchallenged," said Cheryl LaBash, a 51-year-old construction inspector from Detroit. She said the march showed "the reality that there is and can be unity against racism."

Lucia Palmarini, 17, from Walnut Hills High School, said her group, the Cincinnati Radical Youth, was trying to reach out to different schools to fight racial injustice. "This rally is good," she said. "There has not been anything strong enough" to stop police violence.

While thousands marched in the streets against cop violence another event took place at the Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, organized by the newly formed African American Political Caucus. About 400 people attended the meeting, which included Democratic Party politicians who are Black, such as former Cincinnati mayor Dwight Tillery. He called on the participants to "take up the ballot" to stop police violence.

Youth charged with rioting and robbery

In a related development, Hamilton County prosecutor Michael Allen has filed charges against two of the more than 60 Black youth arrested during protests against the killing of Thomas. A 14-year-old and a 15-year-old have been charged with two counts each of aggravated riot and robbery. The first charge stemmed from an incident in which a white truck driver, Robert Stearns of Louisville, Kentucky, was pulled from his truck and beaten. The second charge stemmed from the destruction of a hot dog stand.

The 14-year-old, who was 13 at the time of the incidents, could be held in juvenile detention until he is 21 years old. Allen is pushing to try the 15-year-old as an adult and has added two other charges, "ethnic intimidation" and abduction. According to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "The abduction charge is for allegedly restraining the truck driver during the April 10 incident." The charges of aggravated riot and robbery could result in an eight-year prison sentence if the youth is tried as an adult.

Thomas was shot and killed by cop Stephen Roach April 7 after being chased into an alley in the Over-the-Rhine area, a predominantly Black neighborhood. The cops justified the killing by saying that Thomas had run away from them when they sought to arrest him, and by citing Thomas's alleged record of misdemeanors, including several citations for not wearing a seat belt.

The young man's death has sparked continued mobilizations that have placed a national spotlight on police brutality in Cincinnati and on the fact that 15 Black men have been killed by the cops here since 1995, with Thomas being the fourth since November.

The mayor responded to the initial protests by declaring a state of emergency in the city, imposing a dusk to dawn curfew, and tarring the protesters as "rioters" and "looters." More than 852 people were arrested in a matter of days.

The curfew created hardships for those who live and work in working-class neighborhoods. "Many of our union members who work in inner-city nursing homes were torn between going to work and risking getting picked up by the cops or staying home and losing a day's pay," said Veronica Davis, who is SEIU secretary treasurer in Cincinnati.

Curfew violators in Black neighborhoods were roughed up and hauled off to jail. However, local residents report, nothing has happened to curfew violators in Mount Adams, a middle-class suburb.

Auto workers in South Korea oppose threatened mass layoffs

BY HILDA CUZCO

Thousands of auto workers in south Korea rallied June 2 against the announced sale of Daewoo Motor Company to General Motors. GM, the world's largest automaker, has submitted a bid to purchase the south Korean automaker, which workers expect will lead to massive layoffs. The unions have called for a national strike for June 12 to oppose the threatened layoffs and protest the government's pro-employer policies.

In front of the GM headquarters in Seoul, the capital, 3,000 unionists chanted their opposition to the projected takeover. The auto workers union at Daewoo and the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) held a press conference, where they announced a boycott against GM car sales in south Korea.

The same day 10,000 KCTU union members demonstrated in Seoul against the government's austerity measures as they battled against an attack by the riot police. The protest also condemned police violence against workers at Daewoo's Pupyong plant, west of Seoul, where dozens were seriously injured during an April 10 demonstration.

On May 30 outside Daewoo's Inchon plant, unionists held an angry rally. "Stop the sale of Daewoo Motor," they chanted. The unionists there have held daily protests since February, when Daewoo laid off 1,750 workers in hopes of cutting costs.

Daewoo, Korea's third-largest automaker, has sunk into debt since the 1997–98 Asian currency crisis. The company's total debt amounts to $9.3 billion, mostly owed to the Korea Development Bank (KDB). In April Daewoo reported increased profits after laying off 7,000 of the 22,000 workers employed by the company last year.

GM presented its purchase bid to the KDB on May 30, offering between $1 billion and $2 billion for Daewoo, which has plants in 12 countries with a total of 50,000 workers. GM has demanded that the government grant it tax breaks, debt forgiveness, and "flexibility" in hiring practices.

"Down with Kim Dae-jung's government neglecting livelihood of workers," chanted thousands of unionists at the June 1 rally in Seoul, referring to the south Korean president.

A delegation of two workers at Daewoo Motor and three KCTU members traveled to Detroit, at the invitation of the United Auto Workers union in the United States, to protest at GM's June 5 shareholders meeting against the purchase of Daewoo Motor.

In a joint statement, several bosses' organizations threatened the unions with punitive measures should they continue with the June 12 general strike.

Algerians protest government repression

Continued from front page
debt to the imperialist banks. Half of the country's population is 18 years old or younger.

The march in the capital of Algiers of some 300,000 people, many of them farmers and women from the region, was called by the Socialist Forces Front, the larger of the two main opposition parties in Algeria.

This was the largest protest in Algiers since 1992 when the French government prodded the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) to annul the results of the national elections won by the Islamic Salvation Front. Citing the danger of "Islamic fundamentalism" a military junta took over the government. During the civil war that has ensued more than 100,000 people have been killed.

The march in the capital took place on the heels of 10 days of widespread demonstrations, including one of hundreds of thousands in Tizi Ouzou, the capital of Kabylia, called by a coordinating committee representing the leadership councils of villages, towns, and cities.

Ten thousand women chanting, "Don't touch our children," carrying long black cloths to symbolize mourning, and holding up photos of Algerians killed by the government, marched May 24 in Tizi Ouzou. They were led by the mother and grandmother of the high school student killed in police custody. Another large march of women took place June 3 in Béjaïa, the second largest city in Kabylia, organized by a provisional committee of Béjaïa women.

At the Bouzareah University campus in Algiers a student demonstration was brutally repressed May 29 by order of the university rector. The students regrouped and broke through police barricades.

Several thousand doctors and other medical personnel wearing their white coats marched May 30, stopping for a moment of silence at the morgue to commemorate those killed at the hands of the gendarmes. Their march was attacked by the cops' antibarricade truck and sprayed with high-pressure water. Doctors told the reporter for the French daily *Le Figaro* that emergency rooms had been swamped with injured youth. "Many of the victims were shot in the back," said one surgeon. After the doctors' protest, government forces lobbed tear gas grenades into a hospital.

The conflict is widespread, with daily clashes occurring not only in cities, but in towns and villages of Kabylia. On May 31 in the town of Tadmait, during a huge funeral procession for 29-year-old Mohamed Hamidechi, gendarmes shouted obscenities at women in the march. When young people responded with a hail of stones, the gendarmes charged them, killing one and injuring 10, all shot in the back. In the clash one gendarme was killed with an ax.

Similar conflicts broke out on the same day in Draa Ben Khedda and the main village of Tirmitine municipality. All stores were shut in Ain El Hammam, where five demonstrators were injured. In Boghni, demonstrators occupied unassigned public housing. In the town of Amizour, 5,000 people who marched from a high school skirmished with police. Organizers called for Berbers to "maintain citizen mobilization until the end of the struggle for which the young people of Kabylia had fallen."

Some 30,000 people, chanting "No pardon" and demanding that the Berber language Tamizight be made an official national language marched in Souk El Tenine June 3 in response to a call by the coordinating body of neighborhood committees for a one-day general strike. All activity except public health and transportation services was shut down. Five people have been injured there in recent attacks by gendarmes.

On May 29 a group of Arab intellectuals declared that "all of Algeria has affirmed its solidarity with Kabylia and has embraced the demands for dignity, respect of the rights of citizens, civil liberties, and the rule of law." The coordinating body of local leaderships is calling for a march in Algiers against Bouteflika. The date will be set at a June 4 meeting of the group, which is also planning a mass meeting at a stadium in Tizi Ouzou June 7.

Restrictions on press and free speech

Journalists organized a "day without the press" and a march and sit-in of several thousand to protest government attacks. The action also condemned changes in the penal code adopted by the Algerian national assembly May 16. The measure imposes stiff penalties for "defamation" of the government by the press and for "subversive" sermons by imams in the mosques.

Some delegates of bourgeois parties in the national assembly opposed the free speech restriction. The Socialist Forces Front (FFS) boycotted the vote, while the other main opposition party, the Regroupment for Culture and Democracy (RCD) voted against the measure. The RCD is closely allied with the Berber Cultural Movement and participated in the coalition government until recently. It withdrew as antigovernment protests spread, threatening its credibility. Other opposition parties whose delegates voted against the repressive law include those from two Islamist parties, Society for Peace Movement and En Nahda; and the Workers Party, which is associated with the Fourth International.

The FFS, whose president Hocine Aït Ahmed resides in Switzerland, is a social democratic party and an affiliate of the Socialist International. Ahmed was among those who formed the party in 1963 and sought unsuccessfully to foment a rebellion against the workers and farmers government led by Ahmed Ben Bella. The Ben Bella government responded to the FFS attack and a simultaneous military aggression by the pro-imperialist Moroccan monarchy by mobilizing workers and farmers and continuing nationalizations of industry and initiation of a land reform. The FFS-led "revolt" quickly fizzled.

March of 300,000 in Algiers May 31 protesting government repression and demanding that Berbers be allowed to use their own language in public life.

In addition to bourgeois opposition forces striving to capitalize on the widespread outrage over the recent police killings and deteriorating economic conditions, several imperialist governments have voiced "concern" over the repressive actions of the government. This partly stems from the fact that despite the overthrow of the workers and farmers government in 1965 the FLN avoided outright subservience to imperialism and charted a foreign policy course that aligned the country with a number of anti-imperialist struggles. While maintaining relations with Washington, Paris, and other major powers, and keeping the country open for foreign exploitation, the FLN has not had the coziest of relations with imperialist governments.

Government concessions

When the protests began, President Bouteflika initially took the tact of publicly ignoring them and then called for an "independent" inquiry, a proposal protesters have rejected. Bouteflika then threatened to punish instigators of what government officials refer to as the "riots."

In face of extended demonstrations, the government has now retreated slightly and tried to appear more conciliatory. Bouteflika postponed the graduate exams until September, something which the students, who have been active in the protests, have been demanding. He also said the role of the Berber language, Tamazight, would be reconsidered in the next revision of the constitution. The government also withdrew more than 600 gendarmes "in an effort to reestablish a relationship of confidence with the population." However, the head of the national police said it was to relieve those who were "physically and psychologically exhausted"—itself a registration of the effectiveness of the protests. The government sent military reinforcement and helicopters to Tizi Ouzou. Bouteflika reshuffled his cabinet and expressed "deepest regrets for the tragic consequences" of the "events." The National Gendarme command announced June 1 it had jailed two auxiliary gendarmes for using weapons illegally, and another was arrested for injuring a civilian.

The struggle against repression in Kabylia has provided an important break from the demobilizing impact of the civil war, allowing tens of thousands to come into action. The June 2 *Financial Times* noted the "popular challenge this time comes from a non-Islamist opposition, adding to the pressure of the Islamist insurgency, and leaving the regime at a loss for containment measures."

A month ago the Bouteflika regime initiated a program to stimulate the economy following five years of "stabilization" measures, such as cuts in social services, privatization of public enterprises, and other steps to keep up with foreign debt payments at the expense of workers and farmers. The government proposals are meeting opposition. The head of the national oil workers union pointed out the planned expenditures "don't create jobs, but only fund equipment purchases." Algeria's oil reserves, much of which are sulfur-free, are estimated to be more than 9 billion barrels. The country ranks seventh in the world in natural gas reserves.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, New International, Nouvelle Internationale, Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International.*

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 1356 Hueytown Road, Hueytown. Zip: 35023. Tel: (205) 497-6088. E-mail: 73712.3561@compuserve.com

CALIFORNIA: Fresno: 438 E. Shaw Ave. #107. Zip: 93710 E-mail: swpfresno@netscape.net **Los Angeles:** 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (213) 380-9460. E-mail: 74642.326@compuserve.com **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail:sfswp@hotmail.com

FLORIDA: Miami: 1035 NE 125 St., Suite 100, North Miami. Zip: 33161. Tel: (305) 899-8161. E-mail: Pathmiami@yahoo.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 465 Boulevard, Suite 214. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 622-8917. E-mail: atlpathfinder@cs.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1212 N. Ashland Suite 201. Zip: 60622. Tel: (773) 342-1780. E-mail: ChicagoPathfinder@compuserve.com

IOWA: Des Moines: 3720 6th Ave. Zip: 50313. Tel: (515) 288-2970. E-mail: 104107.1412@compuserve.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: P.O. Box 702. Zip: 02124. Tel: (617) 470-2620 E-mail: 103426.3430@compuserve.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 4208 W. Vernor St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 441580 Zip: 48244. Tel: (313) 554-0504. E-mail: 104127.3505@compuserve.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 1569 Sherburne Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: TC6446325@cs.com

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 506 Springfield Ave. 3rd floor. Zip: 07103. Mailing address: Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117. Zip: 07102-0302. Tel: (973) 643-3341. E-mail: swpnewark@usa.net

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Mailing address: PMB 197, 655 Fulton St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 567-8014. E-mail: swpbrooklyn@earthlink.net **Garment District,** 545 8th Ave. Mailing address: P.O. Box 30. Zip:10018. Tel: (212) 695-7358. E-mail: nygd@usa.net; **Upper Manhattan:** 540 W. 165 St. Mailing address: 3792 Broadway #250. Zip: 10032. Tel: (212) 740-4611. E-mail: swpuptown@usa.net; **Pathfinder Mural Bookstore:** 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111: Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: 103253.1111@compuserve.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 5237 N. 5th St. Zip: 19120. Tel: (215) 324-7020. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@yahoo.com **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 225. Zip. 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: 103122.720@compuserve.com

TEXAS: Houston: 619 West 8th St. Zip: 77007. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@cs.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3541 14th St. N.W. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-6221. E-mail: dc-swp@starpower.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@qwest.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 176 Redfern St., Redfern NSW 2016. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket Post Office, NSW 1240. Tel: 02-9690-1533. E-mail: 106450.2216@compuserve.com

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 020-7928-7993. E-mail: 101515.2702@compuserve.com

CANADA

Montreal: 4613 St. Laurent. Postal code: H2T 1R2. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: 104614.2606@compuserve.com

Toronto: 2761 Dundas St., Postal code: M6P 1Y4. Tel: (416) 767-3705. E-mail: milpathtoronto@cs.com

Vancouver: #202D-4806 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3R8. Tel: (604) 872-8343. E-mail: clvancouver@cs.com

FRANCE

Paris: Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. E-mail: 73504.442@compuserve.com

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 5502. E-mail: milpth@mmedia.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: pathfinder.militant@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.E-mail: 100416.2362@compuserve.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Grand Opening of Pathfinder Bookstore. Sun. June 10, Reception 1:00 p.m., Program 2:00 p.m. *4229 S. Central Avenue. Tel: (323) 233-9372.*

NEW YORK

Garment District

Labor Struggles and Social Movements Today. Speaker: Greg McCartan. Fri., June 8, 7:30 p.m. *545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Donation $4. Tel: (212) 695-7358.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Pathfinder Fund Benefit. Speaker: Róger Calero, *Militant* staff writer, attended recent national congress of Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana. Sun., June 10, Reception 1:00 p.m., Program 2:00 p.m. *3541 14th St. NW, main floor. Donation $7. Tel: (202) 722-6221.*

Algeria and the class struggle in France

Printed below is an excerpt from *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Jack Barnes. It is taken from the chapter titled "So Far From God, So Close to Orange County," based on a talk to a regional socialist educational conference in Los Angeles held over the 1994–95 New Year's weekend. The report was later discussed and adopted by the SWP's 38th National Convention in July 1995. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY JACK BARNES

The same kind of argument over immigration is going on among the rulers in France as here in California and across the United States. The rightists are beating the drums, and they are getting a wider echo across the spectrum of bourgeois politics. Should Algerians and other immigrants be able to go to school? Should limits be put on their "foreign" attire?[1] Should they have access to hospitals and health care? Should they have pension rights and receive unemployment and welfare benefits?

These are the same issues you argue and discuss right here in southern California every week.

A civil war has been widening and deepening in Algeria since early 1992. We would never know this from reading the newspapers here in the United States, however, or from watching television. There has been a flurry of coverage this month about the hijacking of an Air France jet, which ended with French government commandos killing all four Algerians involved in the takeover. But that is about all we as workers in the United States are likely to find out.

Yet an average of *eight hundred people each week* have been killed in that conflict in the recent period—thirty thousand in all over the past three years. I find that figure mind-boggling—it is two-thirds the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action during the entire Vietnam war. But those are the figures reported in the *Financial Times* of London and elsewhere.[2] To the big-business press, nonetheless, it is thirty thousand Arabs, thirty thousand Muslims, thirty thousand fanatics. "Who's gonna miss 'em?" That is truly their attitude.

The civil war in Algeria, moreover, is in large part the product of the imperialist foreign policy of the capitalist rulers in France, the country's former colonial overlord. In December 1991, Paris collaborated with the government in Algiers to annul the results of the national elections there. The specter of "Islamic fundamentalism" sweeping across North Africa was used as the pretext. The French rulers were concerned because the bourgeois opposition party that had won the first round—the Islamic Salvation Front—was insufficiently deferential to the language and culture of Paris's propertied class. Such a regime promised to be less pliant and less subservient to the economic and political demands of French imperialism.

A military junta took command in Algeria, and France's Socialist Party president François Mitterrand acted on behalf of the ruling capitalist families to arm the new regime in Algiers with attack helicopters and other weaponry to use against its opponents. This was not a new departure for the social democrats in France. They were also the dominant party in the government just after World War II that dispatched troops to hold on to French colonies in Algeria and Indochina; the pro-Moscow French Communist Party, too, held posts in that government and backed its colonial policies. In the mid-1950s, a Socialist Party–led coalition regime again pressed the bloody but losing war to suppress Algerian freedom fighters. (Mitterrand, in fact, was the interior minister, or top cop, in that government.)

Because of the attraction by capital of accelerating labor flows over the past several decades, these civil conflicts and class tensions in Algeria come right into France, right into the former colonial power itself. There are one million Algerians or people of Algerian origin in France today. Immigrants from North Africa and other predominantly Muslim countries make up about 5 percent of the population, a substantially larger percentage in Paris and in cities across southern France, and a much larger percentage of the working class.

With official unemployment at around 12 percent in France, the same kind of anti-immigrant scapegoating is on the rise there that we hear from Patrick Buchanan here in the United States. "Save American jobs!" "Save French jobs!" Just as in the United States, such nationalist demagogy is on the increase in France, including in the officialdom of the social democratic- and Stalinist-led parties and unions.

The French rulers are also continuing to press their defense of the *franc fort*—that is, keeping interest rates high in order to keep the franc strong, pegged to the German mark. That deflationary policy puts the squeeze on anybody who works for a living in France or who needs a job, whatever their national origin. But it serves the class interests of most of those who own and control wealth, and all of those who own bonds and hold debt.

Borders more valued by bourgeoisie

National boundaries are more important to the bourgeoisie today than at any time in history, just as they are becoming more porous than ever before. Forget the hoopla about European unity, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the World Trade Organization, and the United Nations. To the most powerful ruling families of world finance capital, borders are becoming more important, not less.

Why? Because national boundaries mark off two things the capitalist rulers need in order to maximize their wealth and protect it in face of rising competition.

One, boundaries define currencies. The borders of France define the area in which the franc is legal tender, backed by the full faith and credit of the state. The French bourgeoisie's effort to keep the franc strong is important if they are to keep capital flowing into their coffers, not out.

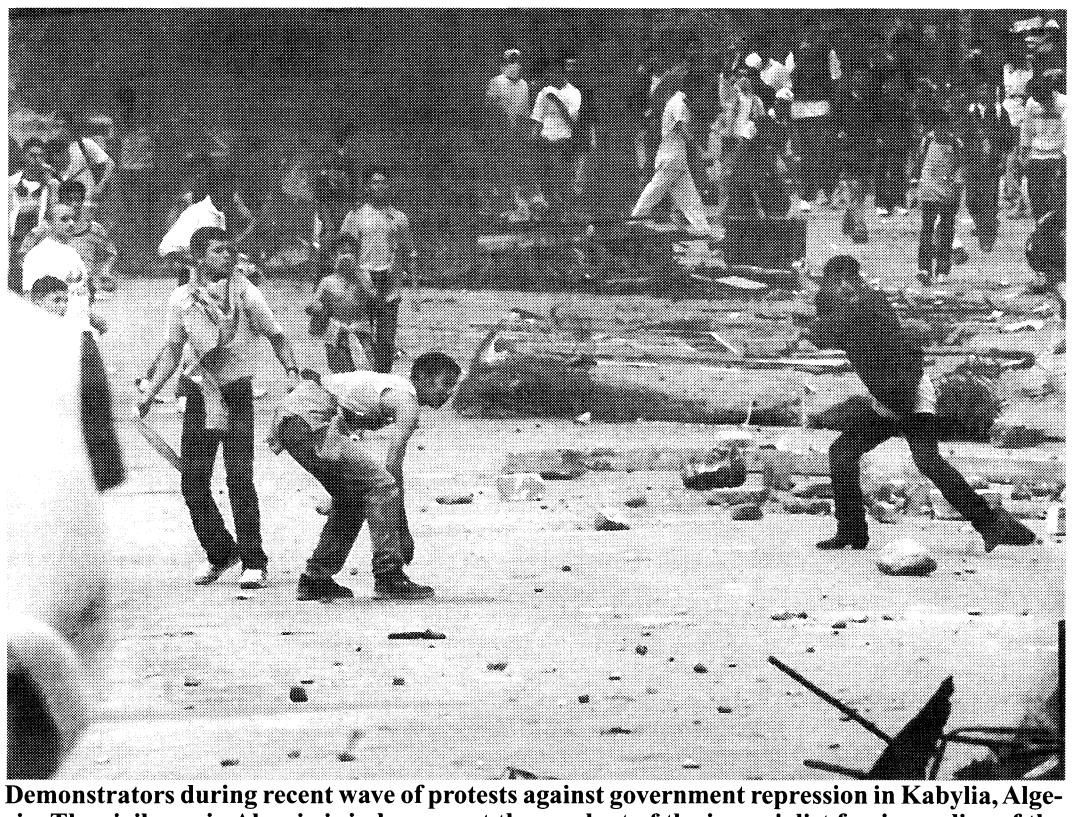
Second, boundaries define the home base of the bourgeoisies' armed forces. The French army stands behind the franc; that is the power that makes the franc more than a piece of paper when push comes to shove. French bankers do not want a devalued franc when it comes time to collect on their loans; the bourgeois state and its armed forces are the ultimate collection agency. It defends French finance capital against its rivals around the world and against the effrontery of working people from Paris to Rwanda, from Lyons to Martinique and Guadeloupe, and from New Caledonia to Marseilles.

The greatest single contradiction in world politics is the internationalization of both capital and labor, on the one hand, and, on the other, the growing conflicts among the most powerfully armed nation-states as a result of intensifying competition for profits. Marx and Engels explained this fundamental contradiction of capitalism many years ago, and Lenin and the Bolsheviks taught us why these conflicts are much more explosive and much more devastating for working people in the imperialist epoch.

We might look at the wars that have been fought in recent years and initially think: well, these all seem to be conflicts between imperialist powers and colonial countries, as in the Gulf War; or between big powers and oppressed peoples, as in Moscow's assault against Chechnya; or civil wars between rival ruling groups in colonial countries or weaker workers states, as in Angola or in Yugoslavia. If we look a little more carefully, however, we can also see the mounting social tensions in world politics that lead to growing nationalist demagogy and rightist movements in the imperialist countries. We can see the class polarization that can and will fuel the war party—the nonpartisan bourgeois war party—in all the centers of finance capital. And we can recognize the threat of interimperialist armed conflicts and wars that can set humanity on the path toward a world conflagration.

We must learn to spot the significance of occurrences that might at first seem accidental or unrelated to broader political developments. To cite one example, take the events this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—one of the most horrible crimes in the history of the U.S. ruling class. Stop and think for a moment about the decision by the U.S. postal service to issue a stamp depicting a mushroom cloud with the caption, "Atomic bombs hasten war's end, August 1945." The Clinton administration finally bowed to the outcry from world public opinion and withdrew the stamp. But it had already been designed and was ready to be issued in September 1995.

The stamp is not an isolated incident. In recent years, the U.S. rulers have been striving to reaffirm not only that the war with Japan was a just war, but also that unleashing nuclear terror against the populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was justified to save the lives of U.S. soldiers. There continues to be a firm bipartisan consensus to brook no retreat from Washington's official rationale for this heinous act.



Demonstrators during recent wave of protests against government repression in Kabylia, Algeria. The civil war in Algeria is in large part the product of the imperialist foreign policy of the capitalist rulers in France, the country's former colonial overlord. And North African immigration is changing the face of politics within France.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

[1] In 1994 Paris barred Islamic girls from wearing headscarves in school. Later, in April 1995, the French government banned a book entitled *The Licit and Illicit in Islam* by Youssef Qaradhawi. The Interior Ministry said the book could "cause dangers for public order because of its clearly anti-Western tone and ideas contrary to the laws and fundamental values of the republic."

[2] The human toll had reached an estimated 75,000 by mid-1998.

—*25 AND 50 YEARS AGO*

25 CENTS

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

June 11, 1976

SALT LAKE CITY—More than 400 Chicano activists gathered here May 28 for three days of intensive discussion of the ideology and program necessary to win Chicano liberation.

The conference registered the deepening conviction among Chicano activists that liberation can not be achieved within the framework of the capitalist system.

A wide spectrum of political ideologies and tendencies were present. It is significant that despite the deepgoing differences between various participants and the hostility that has marked some of their relationships, a comradely atmosphere prevailed throughout the entire weekend.

The main conference discussion was carried on a series of workshops. The two principal ones were titled: Ideology—What Direction Will the Chicano Movement Take? and Organization and Action—How Shall We Get There?

In both sets of workshops many panelists and participants from the floor spoke of the need for an anticapitalist perspective. Among those taking this stand were several leading figures from La Raza Unida parties (RUP) in the Southwest.

There was strong sentiment for independent political action in opposition to the Republicans and Democrats. Perhaps the largest single grouping at the conference were the Raza Unida party activists, who argued effectively that the *partido* be recognized and supported as the political arm of the Chicano movement.

Dr. Armando Gutiérrez, a leading figure in the Texas RUP, urged the participants to consider the relevance of Marxism to the Chicano struggle. He explained why he did not see Marxism as contradictory to Chicano nationalism.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

June 18, 1951

It was only a few years ago that the big majority of the 90,000 Ford workers at the Detroit River Rouge plant believed that the Ford empire was invincible.

And yet on June 23, Ford Local 600, the largest local union in the world, will hold a mass meeting celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The foundation of this powerful local union is indeed worthy of commemoration. Ford, with Bethlehem Steel, was the last of the great mass production fortresses to fall to the irresistible organizing drive of the CIO.

Henry Ford had repeatedly flouted the union's organizing efforts with the flat statement that he would never sign a union contract. His staff of brass-knuckled gangsters called the "service department"—3,000 strong—beat down union efforts with physical terror.

Workers were mercilessly driven on the production lines: if a man put on a union button he was escorted out the plant gate, given a brutal beating, and fired. The despotic Ford ran his plant like a potentate, and the overworked, fearful and intimidated workers were all but convinced that this was one company the union could not overcome.

But on April 2, 1941, the mile-square Ford factory was humbled by the workers' solidarity. Workers poured from the dozens of plants gates and formed a picket line of 30,000. The four main highways leading to the plant were blockaded by automobile barricades. No one could get near the plant without union permission.

In a few moments after the strike began it was clear that nothing on earth could defeat the new-found unity of the Ford workers.

Justice for the Charleston Five

As the *Militant* goes to press, unionists from around the country, joined by other workers and young people, are preparing to get on buses and converge on Columbia, South Carolina, to demand the state government drop frame-up charges against the Charleston Five, members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA).

These dockworkers, who face felony "rioting" and "conspiracy" charges with penalties of up to 10 years in prison, are guilty of nothing more than standing up to union-busting, racism, and police brutality. It is in the interests of all workers, farmers, opponents of racism, and defenders of democratic rights to join the fight to win justice for them.

The attempt by Nordana Lines to use nonunion labor, which the ILA defendants were protesting when 600 cops rioted and attacked them on Jan. 20, 2000, is part of the worldwide offensive of the shipping industry bosses to speed up production, cut crew size, and lower wages. In late March, some 11,000 Brazilian dockworkers at the port of Santos went on strike for 15 days to protest the government's sell-off of the port facilities. In New Jersey, the pro-employer Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor is challenging the ILA's right to organize dockworkers in the port of Newark.

The fight against union-busting on the Charleston docks is intertwined not only with the fight to unionize the South but with broader social struggles. Just days before the police attack, many members of the mostly Black ILA Local 1422 had joined a 50,000-strong Martin Luther King Day march in Columbia to demand the Confederate battle flag be removed from the statehouse.

The campaign to defend the dockworkers has struck a chord among working people nationwide, and internationally too. The call by the AFL-CIO to unions everywhere to support and join the June 9 Columbia rally is a welcome encouragement to broaden the fight.

Not only do many workers sense the important stakes in this battle for justice. So do the employer class and its government. South Carolina state attorney general Charles Condon has vowed to prosecute the dockworkers "vigorously" and to defend the "right of South Carolina citizens to refuse to join a labor union"—that is, to defend the bosses' "right" to freely exploit workers.

The resistance by the workers in South Carolina is part of a pattern of growing resistance by workers and farmers to the assault carried out by the U.S. rulers. These struggles range from the uranium and coal miners demanding medical treatment and compensation for the sickness and death wreaked on them by the mining bosses, to workers refusing to give up their fight against racist police violence from Cincinnati to Miami, to farmers defending their land and ability to make a living, to immigrant workers saying no to the brutality and terror tactics of the deportation police.

These struggles can be tapped effectively to reinforce the fight for justice for the framed-up longshore workers, which in turn can inspire others facing similar attacks.

Let us act to demand: Drop the frame-up charges against the Charleston Five!

No to the death penalty!

Under the banner of fighting "terrorism" and espionage, the wealthy rulers of the United States are seeking to wield the death penalty more readily as a political weapon of terror against working people.

The U.S. government is pushing to use the death penalty on several related fronts—in the spy trial of former FBI agent Robert Hanssen, the execution of Timothy McVeigh, and the case of four men kidnapped from abroad and convicted in a U.S. court for the 1998 bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

To win support for the first federal execution since 1963, the U.S. government chose Timothy McVeigh, an ultrarightist convicted of the Oklahoma City bombings, as an easy target. The temporary postponement of McVeigh's execution, after the FBI admitted it had withheld thousands of pages of documents containing evidence that neither the defense lawyer nor the jury had been able to review, was used to Washington's advantage. U.S. officials are proclaiming that the postponement shows the "fairness" of the judicial system, while at the same time using the FBI's routine trampling of rights as a precedent to use "secret evidence" in cases against anyone accused of being a terrorist. Meanwhile, the big-business media has sought to whip up a pro-death penalty campaign, with headlines screaming, "It's time to die" and "Get the needle ready."

A parallel move against democratic rights—one that working people should speak out against—is the seizure in Africa, and the trial and conviction in the United States, of four men accused of the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. By kidnapping citizens of other countries, the U.S. government seeks to assert its prerogative to intervene in and violate other nations' sovereignty. The FBI conducted interrogations denying the accused their right to legal representation and protection against self-incrimination. This is the first time the death penalty is sought against "foreigners" on charges stemming from events abroad. The violation of rights was so blatant that it has sparked a storm of controversy in South Africa, where one of the four, a Tanzanian citizen. was turned over to the FBI.

Similarly, the Hanssen case is the first in which Washington is seeking to execute someone accused of espionage since they killed Ethel and Julius Rosenberg in 1953 during the antilabor witch-hunt.

There should be no mistake about who is the ultimate target of this campaign for the death penalty in the name of fighting terrorism and spying. It is workers and farmers—and anyone else who stands up to the assault by the employers and the billionaires' government. The moves by the U.S. rulers to undercut democratic rights and to rely more and more on their cops, courts, prisons, and executions—both official and on the street—are in anticipation of the increasing resistance by workers and farmers in this country. The bosses are preparing to use rougher methods to keep our class in line. In an extension of this offensive at home, they are also part of Washington's efforts to assert their military might to defend their imperialist interests around the world.

The stance of the labor movement must be: Stop the executions! Abolish the death penalty!

Build Havana, Algiers events

The 15th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held August 8-16 in Algiers, Algeria, is an event that young workers and students involved in struggles against the employers and protests for social justice should attend. The fact that youth organizations in different countries that were not involved in earlier festivals are showing interest in attending the Algiers event indicates that this anti-imperialist festival will be an important place to meet and exchange class-struggle experience, discuss revolutionary perspectives, and develop ongoing links of international solidarity.

In the United States, young workers, farmers, and students have a double opportunity. In addition to the world youth festival in North Africa, student and youth organizations in Cuba have invited young people to attend a July 22-30 Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange in Havana. Plans by groups of young people to attend the Youth Exchange in Cuba are well under way in several cities, showing the potential to reach out and build the delegation.

In Cuba, participants will join the July 26 celebration to commemorate the 47th anniversary of the assault by Cuban revolutionaries on the Moncada army barracks, which launched the Cuban revolutionary struggle; stand on Cuban soil to view the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, an imperialist threat and base of provocations against the Cuban Revolution; discuss with counterparts in Cuba the history of their revolution and steps being taken today to advance the fight for socialism; and explain various struggles inside the United States by workers and farmers.

Young people from the United States who are interested in these events can make a valuable contribution to both of them. U.S. imperialism is the chief exploiter and oppressor of working people around the world. Those who are in the midst of strikes and struggles against the employers, U.S. government assaults abroad, police brutality, and attacks on affirmative action and women's rights, as well as fights to defend working farmers, can bring an important message of the possibilities for revolutionary struggle from within the United States. They can point to the opportunities to bring powerful forces to bear in common battles against imperialism and in response to the effects of the world capitalist economic crisis.

In addition, the events in Cuba and Algeria will help broaden the internationalist horizons of those participating. Both events will attract young people from around the world who want to take concrete steps in building a worldwide anti-imperialist youth movement—one that will weigh in the balance in the outcome of coming revolutionary battles of workers and farmers against the capitalist system, an economic system that is historically outmoded and will drag humanity into fascism and war unless working people take power out of the capitalists' hands.

For revolutionary-minded young people, the best preparation for the Youth Exchange and for the world youth festival will be taking part in the June 14-17 Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. The conference, which will be attended by vanguard workers and farmers from around the country and internationally, will provide a working-class framework for those seeking an alternative to capitalism's brutal disorder.

Attend the Active Workers Conference

Continued from front page

the Cuban Revolution in building such a party today, will be addressed in keynote presentations at the meeting.

Several hundred participants will bring to the conference recent experience in building the communist movement among workers and farmers and participating in union struggles and social protests. These include actions against police brutality and racist attacks in Cincinnati, Miami, and Oldham, England; the June 9 rally in Columbia, South Carolina, to defend the Charleston 5 dockworkers; strikes, including those by garment workers at Hollander Home Fashions and Up-To-Date laundry workers in Baltimore; a youth congress organized by the Polisario Front in Western Sahara; and actions by working people in mining regions to defend the environment, fight for health care, and demand government compensation for the devastating effects of uranium poisoning and black lung disease.

Garment and textile workers, meat packers and miners, and others from rural and urban areas; farmers involved in actions to defend their land and livelihoods; and participants from several countries around the world will be among those attending the conference.

A highlight of the conference will be two panel presentations that will include communist workers, youth, and trade unionists involved in defending their unions; participating in social movements and protest actions; and increasing the distribution and study of Pathfinder books and socialist publications on the job, from street tables in workers districts and through sales to bookstores and libraries. The panels will also address the international collaborative effort required to produce and keep in print the Marxist and revolutionary books published by Pathfinder; and to build branches of the SWP in urban and rural workers districts that are spreading the influence of socialism among layers of working people through weekly public forums, literature tables, classes, and recruitment work.

Classes will include "Communists and the transformation of nature" by Steve Clark; "The hidden history of the 1963-65 workers and farmers government in Algeria," by Greg McCartan; "Organizational principles of the Socialist Workers Party" by Lisa Potash and Martín Koppel; "The birth of Bolshevism" by Argiris Malapanis; "The Jewish question" by Dave Prince; and "Twenty-two years of the Iranian revolution" by Cindy Jaquith. Translation into Spanish and French will be available for all classes and presentations.

Another special feature of the conference will be the viewing of a series of films. *Terrorists in Retirement*, a movie that was initially banned from French television because it exposed the betrayal of immigrant workers and resistance fighters by the French Communist Party, will be shown. *The Battle of Algiers*, a dramatized account of the Algerian revolution; and *Salt of the Earth*, the heroic struggle of Western zinc miners in the United States, will also be shown. In addition, there will be music, dancing, and time to socialize.

Young people participating in the conference will have a chance to learn about and sign up for the July 22-30 Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange in Havana and the World Festival of Youth and Students, which will take place in Algeria August 8-16. The Young Socialists are planning a meeting Sunday, June 17.

Also on Sunday volunteers in the Pathfinder Reprint Project—who are taking on new challenges and goals after having recently converted half of Pathfinder's books and pamphlets to electronic form—will conduct workshops and training sessions, and the SWP trade union leadership will meet.

Those interested in finding out more about the conference can see the listing on page 12 to contact the Socialist Workers Party or Young Socialists near them. Socialists in cities and towns across the United States are organizing transportation for anyone interested in attending the gathering.

NEW FROM PATHFINDER

Special offer $10

or $5 with a subscription to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution BY JACK BARNES

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. It is about the class struggle in the United States, where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly.

Available In English, Spanish, and French

See page 12 for list of distributors

Algeria: how toilers made a revolution

Continued from Page 10
way were turned over to management committees elected by the workers.

Just before announcing the decrees, Ben Bella told a group of youth preparing to form a volunteer work brigade: "In the second phase of our revolution, we are going to put into effect extremely important decisions. We are going to deal a mortal blow to speculation in this country. We are going to make those who want to continue in the pattern of the colonial bourgeoisie understand that there is no place for them here. We are going to see to it that there will no longer be a bourgeoisie here that profits from the labor of their brothers but only Algerians, not grubbing after money, but generous in exerting themselves to serve their country."

***World Outlook*, Nov. 1, 1963**
National Congress of Peasants Opens

PARIS, Oct. 26—The three-day National Congress of Peasants which opened yesterday in the Majestic theater in Algiers is a most important gathering. It brings together representatives of the class that fought imperialist France to a standstill in a seven-and-a-half year [war] of unprecedented violence and terror, that then pressed forward to take the land abandoned by the French colons [settlers], and did so in a way that led to sweeping nationalizations and the establishment of a socialist sector of the economy.

They meet after some six months of setting up and attempting to operate Management Committees and Workers Councils of a highly democratic character. And they meet in the face of a threat of armed rebellion in the Kabylie and an attack by the reactionary Moroccan monarchy that could escalate into war. What they say and decide in this Congress can settle a good many questions in Algeria.

The first session was impressive even to the hardened cynical reporters of the capitalist press. Here is what the correspondent of the Paris daily *Le Monde* writes [October 27]:

"Astonishing spectacle: three thousand peasants, the dark hue under the white turban, a face that is the image of their land, weathered, hollowed and molded by erosion, baked by the sun, furrowed with wrinkles. Three thousand real peasants, seated in this room to hear technical reports and statistics...

"It is not sure that they will understand everything, but to see them speaks volumes. They are here, they are called 'Messieurs les congressistes' [Gentlemen of the Congress], their opinions are sought. They have in their hands a small red folder with very serious things inside. Here is the genuine revolution. Why be astonished then if every time the name of Ben Bella is mentioned they applaud? After which they formulate such criticisms that an observer who has not been warned would classify them among the most unconditional of the opposition.

"They are not sparing in their criticisms. Badly paid, badly provisioned, without supplies or seeds, they have come to say that they cannot continue like this."

[The article goes on to quote remarks from several delegates published in the newspaper *Le Peuple*. At the time, the regime of Moroccan monarch Hassan II had launched a military assault on Algeria, backed by Washington, Paris, and Madrid.]

Salem Djelloul (27), chairman of a Management Committee at Ameur Smaïn: "I'll tell you first of all, 'Long live socialism and long live Ben Bella.' I will add, 'We'll break the aggression of Hassan II and all the enemies of Algerian socialism the way we break clods.'

"We regret that it's only the cities that have doctors and there aren't any at all in the countryside where we are."

Benzahri Rabah (36): "We are happy over the advent of socialism and we are determined to do everything to realize this aim. We are determined to work with the same intensity we showed in liberating the national territory from the claws of colonialism. We will defeat Hassan II the way we defeated the foreign oppressor."

Ali Rahmani Mohamed (22): "We wish full success to our Congress and we reaffirm our total support to the socialist policy of our Brother Ben Bella. We must, however, indicate the lack of mechanics on our farms. We have to say in addition that we were obliged to call on private transport to deliver our products."

***World Outlook*, Nov. 8, 1963**
Algeria Celebrates Ninth Anniversary

PARIS, Nov. 3—Revolutionary Algeria was able to celebrate a glorious November 1—the ninth anniversary of the launching of the freedom struggle against imperialist France. The crowds that filled the streets were in a happy and grateful mood. Threatened by war from monarchist Morocco, the threat had been repelled with but little bloodshed and if the truce that was won by Ben Bella at Bamako was an uneasy one, nevertheless it was a truce that spelled precious time for Algeria.

In the world press, Morocco's armed assault on Algeria occupied the center of attention. On the surface it seemed to be an unequal match and that, no doubt, was why King Hassan II struck. With a well-equipped, well-trained army, backed by the imperialist West, including Franco, the king had evidently long studied the blow he intended to deliver.

Algeria on the other hand faced an armed uprising in the Kabylie, the country is poor, militarily weak, still suffering the terrible ravages of the most bitter colonial war in history. What chance did the ragged, politically divided peasants of Algeria have against the sleek mobile forces of Hassan II?

What the monarch and his imperialist backers did not expect was the form of reply. The Ben Bella government openly appealed for political revolution in Morocco. In Algeria the government threw all its forces into mobilizing the people to defend their revolutionary gains and their socialist goals.

These appeals met with an echo among the Moroccan people and Hassan II began to feel that his throne was not altogether secure. Among the Algerian people, fervor mounted to new heights throughout the nation. The recruiting stations were completely unable to register the long lines of people who queued up.

On the military side, too, Algeria had excellent chances of gaining strength against the monarchal-imperialist combination. Arms were made available by Egypt, the East European countries, and the Soviet Union. Even Cuba was reported to have decided without the least hesitation to share the precious stock accumulated for defense against the constant threat of invasion by the biggest bully on earth.[2]

Above, Algerian revolutionary leader Ahmed Ben Bella with Fidel Castro, left, and Cuban president Osvaldo Dorticós in 1962. Inset, Ben Bella with U.S. president John Kennedy. Ben Bella angered Washington by going to Cuba after his U.S. visit.

[2] In response to the 1963 invasion by Moroccan forces, the Cuban government, at Algeria's request, sent a column of troops under the command of Efigenio Ameijeiras, a veteran of the Cuban revolutionary war, to help stop the attack. In an October 1997 article published in the French publication *Le Monde diplomatique* under the title, "On the 30th Anniversary of the Death of Che Guevara: Che as I knew him," Ben Bella says the Cuban forces included 22 tanks fitted "with infrared equipment that allowed them to be used at night. They had been delivered to Cuba by the Soviet Union on the express condition that they were not to be made available to third countries, even communist countries such as Bulgaria, in any circumstances. Despite these restrictions by Moscow, the Cubans defied all the taboos and sent their tanks to the assistance of the endangered Algerian revolution without a moment's hesitation." The full text of Ben Bella's article can be found in *Celebrating the Homecoming of Ernesto Che Guevara's Reinforcement Brigade to Cuba,* distributed by Pathfinder Press.

Learn more about the Algerian Revolution

The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States
by Jack Barnes
In *New International* no. 4. The shared exploitation of workers and farmers by banking, industrial, and commercial capital lays the basis for their alliance in a revolutionary fight for a government of the producers. Also includes "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers" by Doug Jenness and "Land Reform and Farm Cooperatives in Cuba." **$12.00**

The Workers and Farmers Government
by Joseph Hansen
How experiences in revolutions following World War II in Yugoslavia, China, Algeria, and Cuba enriched communists' theoretical understanding of revolutionary governments of the toilers. Includes "The Algerian Revolution from 1962 to 1969." **$7.00**

Available from bookstores, including those listed on Page 12

Participate in the Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 14–17 (see ad on front page), where two classes and a film will address the Algerian Revolution:

The rise and decline of the workers and farmers government in Algeria, 1963–65—presented by Greg McCartan

The workers and farmers government: Drawing the lessons of Algeria, Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, Iran, and Burkina Faso—presented by Steve Clark

***The Battle of Algiers*:** Film about the Algerian Revolution

— LETTERS

Likes U.S. politics coverage

I liked the article by Maggie Trowe on Jeffords's defection and I would like to see more articles like this. Workers I have talked to have been very interested in this, as they hate the current administration's positions, especially on the environment and energy issues.

However, there are deep illusions in the two party system (plus illusions about types like John McCain). They think the defection is a good sign because they think that Democrats and Independents pose an alternative to Bush, Cheney, and Co.

Articles on the political situation, such as the one by Trowe, provide good talking points for discussions.

The campaign for mayor of Los Angeles is another one that provides an area for discussion, as one of the Democrats is heavily backed by labor and the Latino population.

Another area is the recent attempt by Bush (successful it seems) to bring some of the labor misleaders into the slash, drill, and burn energy policy. Although a lot of working people I talk to are very concerned about the environment and pollution, there is always that "jobs vs. environment" issue that the capitalists and their labor friends roll out when necessary to confuse people as to where their real interests lie.

It is especially helpful to show how the Democratic Party has consistently failed to provide real alternative leadership in the fight against the attacks on working people.

S.H.
Deep River, Connecticut

School blocks Mumia video

The graduating class of Castlemont High School in Oakland, California, recently voted to play a videotaped speech by Mumia Abu-Jamal at their upcoming graduating ceremony.

Following criticism by school administrators, Castlemont's principal decided to override their selection—in spite of the fact that the students organized two separate votes in favor of Abu-Jamal. The principal, according to the *Oakland Tribune*, "selected a respected preacher...instead of a convicted cop-killer." The school board president stated that the preacher represented "what a commencement speaker should stand for."

Many students argued that the Oakland-born Abu-Jamal, who speaks about racial injustice and police brutality, can give them a more meaningful send-off than a pastor exhorting the virtues of religion. "I worked hard to get here, and now they are taking something away from me," said student Donnie Penelton. "It's our graduation."

Most of the students first learned about Abu-Jamal's fight to prevent his execution on frame-up charges at a district-wide teach-in. At that time, school district officials and the Oakland police department attempted to block the event, citing the killing of a cop four days before the event.

Shirley Peña
Albany, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

THE MILITANT

NATO backs attack on rebels in Macedonia

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

NATO officials and the government in Macedonia are collaborating to step up military assaults on Albanian rebel strongholds, and at the end of May worked overtime to scuttle an agreement Albanian parties brokered with the rebels to end the widening fighting in the country.

These events in Macedonia dominated the May 29–30 meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Budapest. The meeting of the U.S.-led imperialist military alliance came as the government in the Macedonian capital of Skopje used helicopter gunships, heavy artillery, tanks, and ground troops against areas currently held by the National Liberation Army (NLA).

The NLA is demanding a change in the country's constitution to acknowledge Albanians as a distinct national minority, to recognize Albanian language rights, and to address discrimination faced by the Albanians, who constitute one-third of the country's population. Their demands for national equality are proving an increasingly explosive element in Macedonian politics, as in the wider territory of Yugoslavia.

A few days earlier Albanian parties that are part of a new and shaky coalition government announced an agreement in which the rebels would lay down their weapons in exchange for an amnesty and steps to address their demands. "Under the draft accord," reported the *New York Times,* "the rebels would agree to disarm and disband in return for amnesty and the freeing of political prisoners." The document also reportedly granted the rebels a say in political decisions on Albanian rights.

The government, military, and police is dominated by so-called "Slavic" parties. Formed hastily in mid-May as a "government of national unity" in an attempt to deflect the support for the rebels' demands, the coalition is headed by Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski's Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity.

In response to the agreement, NATO secretary general Lord Robertson said, referring to the rebels, "Those who have taken up arms have no place at the negotiating table." Others expressed worries over the possibility the fighting might spread. "The territorial integrity of Macedonia is the decisive element for peace and stability in the entire region," said German foreign minister Joschka Fischer. Germany has troops deployed in Macedonia as part of NATO's "peacekeeping" forces.

NATO has to remain "very engaged" in the situation, France's foreign minister Hubert Vedrine added. "We do not want extremists to challenge all the work over the past few years."

"Extremists" is the term used by capitalist politicians, many in the Macedonian government, and the capitalist media for the NLA forces and their demands.

"Critics angrily charged that by signing the statement, the politicians had given legitimacy to the rebels and their political leader, Ali Ahmeti," wrote David Holley in the *Los Angeles Times*.

Leaders of the Democratic Party for Albanians and the Albanian Party for Democratic Prosperity initially defied President Boris Trajkovski's order to repudiate the deal. NATO then dispatched Javier Solana, the foreign policy and defense minister of the European Union, from the Budapest meeting, who shuttled back and forth to Skopje for 24 hours until the Albanian politicians signed a declaration by Trajkovski that the agreement was "no longer relevant."

"What [the guerrillas] have to do is lay down their weapons and get themselves incorporated into the political system. Those who don't want to do that will have to be prosecuted," said Solana on May 30. The same day, foreign ministers from the member countries of NATO agreed to "strongly condemn" the Albanian guerrillas.

Macedonian prime minister Georgieviski said several days later that the coalition government was "barely functioning. We can't get on with any serious work because of daily squabbles."

Macedonian forces assault village of Vaksince occupied by Albanian rebels in May

Encountering resistance

The Macedonian army and police are encountering stiff resistance in their month-long drive against Albanian rebel forces in the north of the country. The toll extracted by the offensive in dead, wounded, and displaced people of the region is growing.

The fighting is taking place in and around a number of villages in the hilly, farming terrain between Skopje, the capital, and the territory's border with Kosova.

"We will advance step by step until we restore order to these villages," said Interior Minister Ljuben Boskoski on May 26. He spoke during a tour of Vaksince, which had been reduced to "a virtual ghost town of bullet-riddled houses and streets littered with spent shells," by a successful effort to drive the rebels out, according to the Associated Press. In Slupcane, Matejce, Orizare, and many other villages, however, the rebels have countered the bombardment with mortar, sniper, and machine-gun fire.

"Reports that circulated on Friday [May 25] suggested that as many as 60 civilians had been killed in fighting," continued the AP article. The Macedonian police have admitted to "dozens" of deaths, but have insisted that all have been rebels—including those who died in civilian clothing.

Thousands of people are continuing to flee the bombardment to other parts of Macedonia, as well as to nearby Kosova and the Presevo Valley in Serbia.

Tens of thousands of refugees have been created since the conflict escalated early this year. Some 8,000 who have fled to the rebel-controlled town of Lipkovo 15 miles north of Skopje face increasingly "desperate" shortages of food and water, according to the Red Cross.

Local ethnic Albanian community leaders told Reuters that many hesitate to leave for fear of exposing themselves to "mistreatment by Macedonian security forces." The mayor of Lipkovo, Husamedin Halili, told reporters that a government offer to hold fire to allow for the village's evacuation had been turned down because the regime "did not give assurances that men will not be separated from the women and beaten at the police station."

Refugees from Runica told researchers for Human Rights Watch of the brutal treatment they received at the hands of the security forces in a May 21 assault. After unleashing a barrage of mortars, tank shells, and helicopter fire, they reported, the government forces stormed the hamlet. They seized and "beat all members of [one] family, and twice doused the 31-year-old son with gasoline and threatened to set him on fire," according to the organization's report.

"From the morning hours until 11:30 a.m., they never stopped beating us," said the mother of the family. The report noted that "all of the villagers interviewed separately vehemently claimed that the Albanian insurgency...had never been present in the village." The security forces burned the entire village of around 50 houses to the ground, including the mosque and school.

Refugees from other villages spoke of being too afraid to leave their bunkers in spite of their lack of food and water. "They faulted the government for the bombardment and Slavic and Albanian parties in the government for failing to find an understanding," reported Carlotta Gall in the May 26 *New York Times.*

"The strongest one is more to blame," said 50-year-old Hasan Isufu in reference to Georgievski's party. His family, all shepherds, watched the shelling take two of their houses and many of their livestock.

By June 4, after clashes erupted on the outskirts of Tetovo, Macedonia's second largest city, NATO spokesperson Roy Brown said the imperialist military alliance "will further reinforce the border region with highly mobile troops to support the more static units and interdict logistics for the armed extremists."

The BBC reported June 4 that the Yugoslav government in Belgrade "signed an agreement pledging military support for Macedonia's efforts to crush ethnic Albanian rebels."

Steelworkers in Australia make gains in walkout against contracting out of jobs

BY DOUG COOPER

PORT KEMBLA, Australia—Thousands of steelworkers met May 22 and voted to immediately walk off the job here for 48 hours in response to moves by mining and metals giant BHP to contract out 75 jobs.

The steelworks, which dominate the life of this town an hour's drive south of Sydney, were idled by strike action for a third day after the workers met again at the end of the 48-hour period and voted to continue the action for another 24 hours. The workers, who belong to a number of unions, decided that only essential services would be allowed to function, such as the coke ovens and the continuous casters, which produced scrap during the dispute. Today the mill employs some 6,000 people, down from 22,000 in 1985.

"This is our first-ever plant-wide strike in my 16 years here," said Mark Kuczwal, an Australian Workers' Union (AWU) member and a union delegate in the Plate Finishing mill, at the North Gate picket line, May 24. Other pickets said that the last time combined strike action took place was in 1982.

"These picket lines are very important. They help us learn how to fight," Kuczwal said. A construction worker in his native Poland, he was deeply involved in the workers movement there, known as Solidarity, in the late 1970s and early 1980s until forced to leave by police and government repression. Kuczwal had spoken to big applause earlier that day at the mass meeting when he encouraged more workers to join the picket lines. "Bring your families, bring your kids!" he said.

According to Carolyn Austin, an occupational ambulance officer for the last four years who hired in as an operator in the now-closed stainless steel works, BHP wanted to contract out the work of Protective Services workers—ambulance officers, fire safety workers, and gatekeepers and other security guards—to Serco, a notoriously antiunion outfit. Serco had announced that some of the 75 workers affected would not be offered jobs and those who were would have to sign individual contracts by June 18, when the company's agreement with BHP takes effect.

Asked why thousands had voted to walk out in support of the Protective Services workers, Kuczwal, Austin, and others explained that the time to stop antiunion individual contracts was before they gained a foothold. BHP has been successful in imposing individual contracts on nearly half the workforce in its iron ore operations in Western Australia. "These contracts are like cancer. They could spread all over," said Kuczwal.

In addition, steelworkers are worried about possible jobs cuts and attacks on working conditions in the wake of the recently approved merger between BHP and United Kingdom–based Billiton. Moves by BHP are also afoot to contract out all maintenance work on the site in a few months' time.

By dividing up its operations at the Port Kembla works into separate companies and divisions so it can use laws that block "secondary boycotts," BHP has avoided plantwide industrial action for nearly 20 years. This time, however, workers refused to be intimidated or cross picket lines set up by the 75 Protective Services workers. For example, 80 Maritime Union of Australia members who work for BHP refused to cross the picket lines, idling a number of ships, including the BHP-owned steel slab carrier *Iron Monarch*.

Union officials from the AWU and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) told thousands at a mass meeting at Brandon Park on May 24 that BHP had backed off considerably in the face of the workers' action. For example, AMWU official Wayne Phillips reported that Serco had agreed to negotiate a collective agreement. "I think our action was a shock to BHP," he said.

Later that day, the workers were ordered back to work by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and the two companies were ordered to negotiate with the unions. The workers complied after voting at a final mass meeting on May 25 and immediately resumed work.

Kuczwal described the outcome as a "good victory," and said, "I have a feeling it's not over yet." Summing up the collective effort, he noted, "You can't win by speeches, you win by action."

Doug Cooper is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia in Sydney.